

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Student election forgery

Conservative students standing for election to the National Union of Students' national executive, withdrew yesterday after the union's conference in Blackpool heard that forged signatures had been discovered on the nomination forms.

The five, all standing on an anti-NUS platform, voluntarily withdrew from the contest after appearing before the union's election committee. All five, it appears, were unaware the nomination signatures had been forged and the union is taking no action against them.

Mr Barry Wood, a member of the student affairs committee of the Federation of Conservative Students, later said that he had been present when two people filled in the nomination forms in the Conservative Party's headquarters in London.

Mr Timothy Linacre, chairman of the federation, said last night that he would be asking Mr Wood to submit his allegations. "Whoever did this has absolutely no support from the FCS", he said.

Highgrove report denied

Buckingham Palace denied yesterday a newspaper report that the Prince and Princess of Wales planned to sell their house at Highgrove, Gloucestershire, and buy Belton House, the Lincolnshire stately home of Lord Brownlow.

The report, in the *Daily Mail* yesterday, said trustees for Lord Brownlow had accepted in principle an offer of between £2.5m and £3m for the house, set in 600 acres of parkland. Lord Brownlow also described the report as completely untrue.

Former England footballer dies



Mr Dave Clement, aged 34, a former England and Queens Park Rangers full-back, was found dead on Tuesday at the home of his father-in-law at Putney, south London, Scotland Yard said. Mr Clement had sustained stab wounds which appeared to be self-inflicted. A bottle containing what is thought to be weedkiller was by the body.

Belfast ferry start delayed

The Liverpool to Belfast ferry service, which is due to start again today, is delayed because of technical difficulties.

The Irish Continental Line, which stepped in to reopen England's last passenger sea link with Northern Ireland, confirmed yesterday that it has postponed the starting date to May 1.

The service will create 140 jobs for seamen.

Journalists put up union fees

Subscriptions for members of the National Union of Journalists are to rise by 17.3 per cent next year, delegates to the union's annual conference at Warwick University, voted yesterday. Basic grade subscriptions will rise to £72 a year from £62, while maximum grade subscriptions will go up by £14 to £96.

Strike benefit and victimisation pay last year totalled £199,000, more than £80,000 higher than the previous year.

£120 fine for assault

Joseph Domingo, the son of Placido Domingo, the opera singer, appeared before magistrates in Northampton yesterday and admitted assaulting his girl friend, Domingo, aged 23, was fined £120.

Exile for Squires

Dorothy Squires, the singer, aged 58, is to leave Britain to live and work in the United States, because of "nepotism in the theatre and television bureaucracy, and hounding of the press", she said yesterday.

Army depot closes

The Army Central Ordnance Depot at Chilwell Nottinghamshire closed yesterday after 67 years.

Cabinet to discuss Prior plan on Ulster today

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Cabinet will discuss the political initiative for Northern Ireland today and, if it is approved, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is expected to unveil what he describes as a "flexible, workable" and "novel" proposals to the House of Commons next week.

Yesterday the proposals, denounced as unworkable by Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, were the main topic of discussion at a 90-minute meeting in London between Mr Prior and Mr Gerard Collins, the republic's foreign affairs minister. Mr Prior defended his proposals at the meeting, at which the border, security, and economic cooperation were also discussed.

Later in Belfast, Mr Prior said: "I am not prepared to talk about failure because this is so important for the whole future of the United Kingdom as well as the people of Northern Ireland that we cannot afford to let it fail. We have all got to work to make it a success."

His proposals for a 78-seat assembly will give that body some powers on debate and legislation, as well as allowing it to form committees that can inquire and suggest policies.

Mr Prior said that this "staged" assembly gave an initial opportunity for powers similar to an ordinary legislature.

Stricter law demanded on fugitives

From Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A campaign to stop the Irish Republic being used as a haven for "gun toting" terrorists was launched by police yesterday. Delegates to the annual conference of the Association of Garda's Sergeants and Inspectors want tougher laws to deal with the fugitives.

The RUC claims that about six hundred fugitives, mostly from the IRA or the Irish National Liberation Army, are hiding south of the border.

Mr Derek Nally, the association's general secretary, told the conference that, as a short-term measure, he would like the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act 1976. It provides for indictment of anyone who has committed an offence in Northern Ireland or Britain if they become a criminal fugitive in the Republic.

There have been only 10 successful convictions under the Act since 1976. The reason for that low total is that those were cases in which it was possible to obtain sufficient evidence, since they involved police and prison officer witnesses.

Mr Nally suggested there should be joint questioning of suspects by the RUC and Garda, so there would have to be provision for detention.

Mr Nally said he supported the view of Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, a former Attorney-General, that the definition of "political crimes" should be reconsidered.

The Irish government should also start an international debate aimed at a more precise definition, keeping in mind such organisations as the Badger-Meinhoff gang, and the PLO.

Extradition laws were designed when political activity was maintained within national boundaries. That was long ago, Mr Nally said and added: "Nowadays, so-called political crimes very often involve murder or injury to completely innocent people."

He told the conference: "How long can we allow the most vile criminals to live freely and openly in this country when we know, and in some cases they have publicly admitted, that they have committed all forms of crime, including the murder of our colleagues in the North, the destruction of property and the killing and maiming of innocent civilians."

Inspector Thomas Hughes, on behalf of the national executive, said: "There is evidence to suggest that some members of this force would be alive today if it were possible to put these criminals where they belong — behind bars."

Mr Sean Doherty, Minister for Justice and former detective, implied that the Government would seek no change in the constitutional position governing extradition, when he addressed the conference earlier. "The absence of extradition is not, however, a bar to the successful prosecution and imprisonment of those who commit serious crimes in one jurisdiction and flee to another one", he said.

Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales, said the South had been a haven for murderers since 1969. Change was badly needed and he admired the courage of those who spoke out on this delicate subject.

lature. The people and politicians of Northern Ireland recognized that unless there was a way of getting people to meet there was no way in which progress could be made.

"I am saying 'let's take it quietly, let us not build up too many hopes but let us build it quietly but steadily'. The great point about this novel and flexible plan that I am hoping the Cabinet will approve is that it is flexible and it is something new."

He appealed to the province's politicians to realize that compromise would be needed if a settlement was to be reached. Continued deadlock would lead to rising unemployment, further hopelessness, frustration, and alienation.

Giving a Lenten address at St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast, Mr Prior said he wanted to set up a form of Government to allow local politicians to share responsibility for all sections of the community. The majority must recognise that if any new structure was to be stable it must be capable of winning and holding the support to the minority.

The minority had to acknowledge the strength of Unionist tradition and the reality that all-Ireland constitutional structures were not feasible without broad support.

Mr John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said in a statement after Mr Prior that the SDLP had been told that the White Paper would give explicit and generous recognition to the Irish identity in

Northern Ireland. That would be to a far greater extent than before, he added. However, the party still believes that Mr Prior's proposals are unworkable.

□ In Dublin Mr Haughey's governing Fianna Fail Party is considered favourite to win the by-election caused by the resignation of Mr Richard Burke, a leading Fine Gael politician, who has accepted Mr Haughey's offer of a post as an EEC commissioner.

Mr Burke's decision to resign his Dublin, West, seat and quit Fine Gael comes after a week of intense maneuvering. At first it had seemed that Mr Haughey's bold move had rebounded, with Mr Burke declining the offer.

Mr Haughey's "political coup" has immediately given him and advantage, with Dr Garret Fitzgerald's party angry and demoralized.

Fine Gael are reduced to 62 seats and Fianna Fail is poised, just three weeks after returning to power, to reduce its dependence for a majority on Independents to one, the reliable Mr Neil Blaney, independent Fianna Fail deputy for Donegal North-West, and an old colleague of the Prime Minister.

Even though Fine Gael hold the Dublin, West seat, the power to decide when a by-election is held rests with Mr Haughey. With Fine Gael demoralized and without an obvious candidate for the seat, Mr Haughey might press home his advantage by calling a snap by-election.

His party has a strong candidate in Mrs Eileen Lemass.

Local poll blow to alliance

By Our Political Editor

February 11 to March 25, the day of the Glasgow, Hillhead, by-election, Liberal candidates won nearly half the seats they fought — 16 out of 36; SDP candidates fought 23 and won only 3.

An analysis of the results by Mr Peter Kellner shows that the alliance is losing support in the areas where it needs it, with the

Local by-elections, Feb 11 to March 25

The Social Democratic and Liberal Alliance has been doing relatively badly — and the SDP particularly badly — in recent local by-elections.

Evidence published in this week's *New Statesman* matches the evidence of opinion polls that support for the alliance, Labour, and the Conservatives is now about equal, and shows that the familiar squeeze exerted by the Labour and Conservative parties on any third party under the first-past-the-post system of voting is taking its toll particularly of SDP candidates.

In by-elections contests over seven weeks, from

deficit. He said that the problem would be difficult to resolve.

One suggestion is that the society's junior staff should have their pay frozen for a year.

The national membership of the society is put at about 7,000 and, although it is thought that it has lost only 100 members to the SDP, the separate donation revenue has fallen by about a third since the SDP was formed a year ago.

The society, which is affiliated to the Labour Party, is committed to socialism. Its rule book says: "It therefore aims at the establishment of a society in which equality of opportunity will be assured and the economic power and privileges of individuals and classes abolished through the collective ownership and democratic control of the economic resources of the community."

The officers, Mr Melvin Jackson, aged 33, Mr Eric Smith, aged 32, and Mr Howard Price, 25, saw officials of the Prison Department's personnel and management section in London yesterday.

British Rail said: "Not since the evacuation of towns and cities during the last war has such an operation been undertaken."

□ The Pope and his entourage will be accompanied by mobile intensive care units throughout his visit. Dr Hugh Clark, the consultant haematologist in charge of health arrangements for the visit, said yesterday.

The units, which transport critically ill patients to hospital, are equipped with oxygen and anaesthetics as well as with resuscitation equipment. Emergency helicopters will also be on standby where possible.

□ The police estimate that there will be three times as many people, about 200,000, outside Wembley Stadium as inside when the Pope celebrates Mass there on May 29. The Greater London Council, stadium authorities, and the police have agreed that just over 79,000 people may be inside the stadium. That is about 20,000 fewer than a normal sports crowd because they will be there for much longer and will include more women and children.

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'Red' data on mammals updated

By Tony Samaras

The Red Data Book, compiled by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), has been updated. The book, which lists endangered species, is now available in paperback. It contains a list of 1,141 species, including 1,041 mammals, 100 birds, 100 reptiles, 100 amphibians, and 100 fish. The book is published by the IUCN, which is a non-governmental organization that works to conserve the world's natural resources. The book is available for purchase from the IUCN, which has a website at www.iucn.org.

Science post on Arts Council for sales

The Arts Council has announced a new scheme to help artists sell their work. The scheme, which is called 'Arts Council Post', allows artists to sell their work through the Arts Council's network of galleries and shops. The scheme is designed to help artists who are struggling to find a market for their work. The Arts Council has a website at www.artscouncil.org.uk.

Benefits curb on jobless students vexes ministers

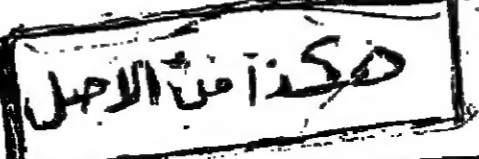
By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Ministers in three government departments are considering ways of reversing a ruling made by one civil servant, which strictly curbs the number of hours the unemployed can spend on further education courses without losing supplementary benefit. The Supplementary Benefit (Conditions of Entitlement) Regulations, 1981, state that some unemployed people who take part-time courses at school or college for not more than 21 hours a week may be entitled to continue drawing benefit. But an assistant secretary in the Department of Health and Social Security, Mr Alan Palmer, has ruled recently that time spent on meal breaks and in private study must be included in the 21 hours. To the intense embarrassment of ministers in Mr Palmer's department, the Department of Education and Science, and the Department of Employment, Mr Palmer has this month issued a 35p booklet, *Guidance to Supplementary Benefit Officers*, giving his independent legal interpretation of last year's statutory instrument. He says: "Do not limit the hours of attendance at the course to hours of direct instruction, but on or off the private study (on or off the college or school premises, eg, homework) and lunch breaks. For example, a claimant who is at college from 9 am to 4 pm two days a week and is expected to do a further seven hours' private study is 'attending' his course for 21 hours a week." Mr Jeffrey Rooker, an Opposition spokesman on social security, said yesterday that that had led to charges that the department was employing "homework

Asian young meet job bias, survey shows

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Twice as many Asian school-leavers in Bradford, West Yorkshire, fail to get jobs as white school-leavers in the city, although their educational qualifications are about the same and in some cases better, according to research sponsored by the EEC and the Department of Education and Science, which is published today. The research shows that 12 months after leaving school in 1980, 72 per cent of Asians were still without a real job, compared with 36 per cent of all school-leavers aged 16 in the city. Of the Asian school-leavers, 41 per cent were unemployed, and a further 31 per cent were on Manpower Services Commission Youth Opportunities or work experience programmes, compared with 19 per cent and 14 per cent respectively among white school-leavers as a whole. A survey by Bradford City Council of educational qualifications of school-leavers in 1979 showed that 31 per cent of ethnic minority pupils (most of whom are Asian) obtained at least one O level with grade C or better, compared with 33 per cent of whites; a further 49 per cent obtained at least one CSE qualification, compared with 36 per cent of whites. Mr Douglas Jones, an economist at Thames Polytechnic, and Mr Michael Campbell, an economist at Leeds Polytechnic, who carried out the research, conclude that only skin colour, and the assumption that Asians have certain characteristics which fit them only for certain kinds of work, could explain why Asian school-leavers fared so badly in the labour market. A report published yesterday by Cheshire County Council calls on employers to discriminate positively in favour of young people, to stop the rapid increase in youth unemployment.



Placard-waving children among mothers and teachers at yesterday's rally.

Parents join striking teacher's lobby

As the strike by the National Union of Teachers in the London borough of Barking neared the end of its sixth week, an estimated 3,000 teachers, parents, children and councillors marched from Tower Hill to Westminster yesterday to lobby MPs as a further protest against the planned teacher redundancies in the borough (Our Education Correspondent writes). Barking plans to reduce its teaching force of 1,400 by 159 between last September and April next year. Sixty jobs have gone and now appear inevitable compulsory redundancies. The cuts will lead to a deterioration in the pupil-teacher ratio of 17.6:1, which is about average for greater London. The NUT, which has 900 members in the borough, says that the authority's plans mean that the number of secondary school teachers will be cut by 17 per cent over the 18-month period while the number of secondary school pupils is expected to fall by only 7 per cent, and that the number of primary school pupils is expected to fall by only 5 per cent. The education of thousands of pupils has been disrupted for half the spring term by the strike, and 10 schools are closed. The strike is costing the union £100,000 a week in strike pay. The Nut has been mounting a picket, preventing delivery vans from going through, but allowing members of other teacher unions to cross the picket line. Some schools have to close because of a shortage of heating fuel and other supplies rather than because of the shortage of staff. However there seems no sign of any change of heart by the council, which has to find savings of £2.7m in its education budget over the next two years. The council says that it hopes that it will be able to shed the jobs without compulsory redundancies.

MP moves to deter young glue-sniffers

By David Hewson

Glue manufacturers will be forced to add a foul-smelling chemical to their products to deter glue-sniffers if an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill, tabled by Mr Allan Roberts, Labour MP for Bootle, becomes law. Mr Roberts said yesterday that he had tabled the clause because he was convinced that glue-sniffing among teenagers was a growing problem. Mr Roberts also called for the Government to undertake a study that would produce detailed evidence about the extent of the problem. No hard facts about the incidence of glue-sniffing exist, although it is known that 22 young people died in Britain last year through inhaling solvents, and a total of 60 are thought to have died since 1979. Mr Roberts's move was criticized by Mr Peter Bosworth, secretary of the British Adhesive Manufacturers' Association. Five American states demand that solvent-based glues contain oil of mustard to deter sniffing. But the additive tended to increase the likelihood of vomiting, which was already one of the chief hazards facing sniffers, Mr Bosworth said. The industry also objected to the additives because they would be as obnoxious to those who used glue properly as to those who misused the product. "Glue sniffing is basically a social problem", Mr Bosworth added. According to Mrs Eve Merrill, a social worker whose book on glue sniffing was published yesterday, the problem had been exaggerated to some extent by the media. All the evidence indicates that glue sniffing for the majority of youngsters is simply a passing phase. The book claims that there has been no evidence to indicate that glue-sniffing carries any serious health risk, although its effects, which are similar to drunkenness, can lead to accidents and asphyxiation through the inhaling of vomit while the user is unconscious. Glue-sniffing by Eve Merrill (Priority Educational Programme for Action and Research; £3.50).

Illegal art exports worry

By Frances Gibb

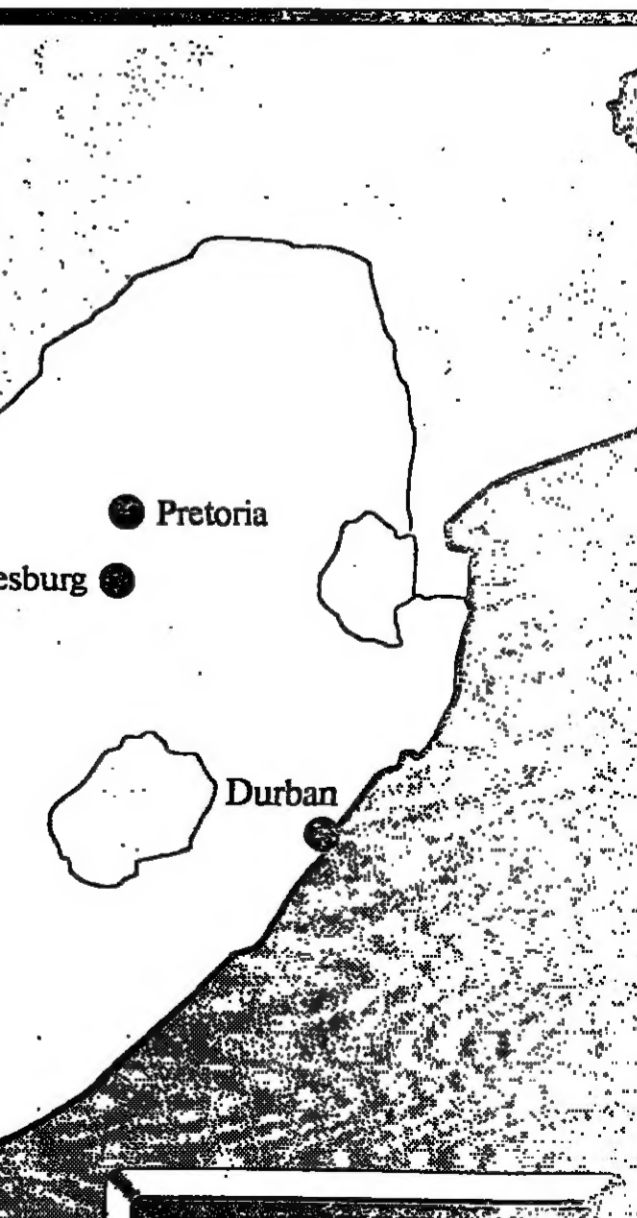

The Government's Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, is concerned about illegal exports by foreign visitors who are ignorant of the export rules. According to the March bulletin of the Fine Art Trade Guild, the committee has asked for the help of the art trade in bringing the regulations to the attention of foreign buyers. Concern has been expressed in particular by the British Council for Archaeology after the advertising in the United States of "treasure trove" package holidays, some in Britain. Professor John White, chairman of the committee, said yesterday: "There has not been a major loss, or scandal. But there is some concern that a number of smaller objects are getting out, simply through ignorance of the rules." The reviewing committee asked the British Airports Authority if it might put up posters on the subject for foreign visitors, but the BAA declined on the ground that there was a more urgent need for other information to be posted. Mr Hugh Leggatt, secretary of Heritage at Danger, said yesterday that he believed any such losses were minimal. Mr Leggatt added that dealers had a financial incentive to ensure that the rules were observed since value added tax was not levied on works of art where export could be proved.

Help for claimants sought

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

More advice for social security claimants and equal treatment for the unemployed in claiming supplementary benefits were recommended by a government-appointed committee yesterday. The fact that the unemployed cannot, after a year, claim long-term supplementary benefit of £10 a week more than the short-term rate was condemned as wholly unjust. The Social Security Advisory Committee, which replaced the Supplementary Benefits Commission, recommended increases of £680m on a spending bill for social security of £28,000m. Some of its recommendations, made to the Government last October but published for the first time yesterday, have been adopted and were incorporated in the Budget. In particular, the Government accepted the demand that the 2 per cent shortfall in benefits in November, 1981, should be made good this year and also accepted that the £2,000 savings threshold for supplementary benefit should be raised to £2,500. But most of the recommendations have not been implemented. Sir Arthur Armitage, chairman of the committee, and former Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, said the committee's philosophy was that, even at a time of economic difficulty, "the most vulnerable people, those dependent on social security, have to be protected whatever sacrifices are made by the rest of society". The committee requested that the worth of supplementary benefit and Family Income Supplement should be maintained and increased when possible. More people should be encouraged to claim, since only three quarters of those entitled to supplementary benefit received it, Sir Arthur said. Child benefit, raised in the Budget, should be restored to its April, 1979, level and the 5 per cent cut in unemployment benefit made in 1980 should be restored when the benefit came into tax in July this year. On the extension of the long-term rate of supplementary benefit to the unemployed, Sir Arthur said it was clearly unjust that the sick, elderly, and disabled should be eligible and the unemployed excluded. The rationale of the higher long-term rate is that after a year on supplementary benefit savings are exhausted and essential replacements mean higher expenditure. "It is a manifest injustice to apply this rationale to some claimants and not others", the report said. In calling for more advice for claimants, Sir Arthur agreed that the present system was complex and difficult to understand. First report of the Social Security Advisory Committee, Stationery Office, £7.50p

After 70 days in a South African prison, Neil Aggett died.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

9.30 TONIGHT: "TV EYE" examines the controversy surrounding the death of white trade union leader Dr. Neil Aggett. In a country where more than 50 black South Africans have already died in custody, the Authorities claim that Aggett committed suicide. His family and supporters refuse to accept he could have killed himself.

THAMES
THE BEST VIEW IN LONDON.

Architecture



The flats designed by John Melvin in Blackstock Road, north London.

Design gives flats the villa look

By Charles McKean

Architects now acknowledge that designing flats does not mean that they have to look like flats, whatever the inherent quality of a flat may be held to be. The fact that people live in flats, so the argument goes, does not in any way lessen their need or desire to feel at home. So what do people mean by home? The revivalists are budding with spring, with their plastic thatch and rent-a-swallow for the eaves. But — even in London — such an image is perhaps too ersatz. Furthermore, where the architect has looked beyond the plastic thatch, the notion of "home" is difficult to pinpoint. Parisian like Bertold Lubek, the Royal Gold Medal winner, would hold that such notions are (or were) "fun-gus" and that the building form would arise from a combination of such elements as the user's requirements, the location of the building, the inspiration of the architect and the requirements of geometry. An easy standpoint for somebody who ceased practice over 30 years ago: modern architects' inspiration and user requirements both frequently include the thatch angle. John Melvin's scheme of flats in Blackstock Road, London, N15, opts for the easily identifiable form of early Victorian villas. The scheme contains 24 flats for childless couples, and the site slopes. Thus we have a series of symmetrically designed villas, rather like those grand piles to be found in Highbury and Kensington in stucco and brick, each one slightly lower than its neighbour, thus marking the slope in a traditional and very attractive manner complete with garden walls and pillared gateway. The methods are simple: oversailing pitched roof with eaves, well designed chimney stacks and projecting party wall, projecting entrance hall and stairway, round-headed main door, and some variation with the wall plane. Those who know the architect's earlier scheme in 'Penton Road, Islington, will notice the similarities. The main difference lies in the fact that each block is self-contained and at a different level, and in the roof and

Whitelaw attack on GLC chief's police criticism

By Richard Evans

Mr William Whitelaw yesterday rebuked, in the strongest terms, the leader of the Greater London Council and its police committee chairman for their outspoken attacks on the capital's police force.

The Home Secretary said he strongly deplored the repeated criticism levelled by Mr Kenneth Livingstone at the Metropolitan Police Commissioner-designate, six months before he was due to take up the post.

During a 70-minute meeting with a GLC police committee delegation headed by Mr Paul Boateng, the committee chairman, Mr Whitelaw said he found it astonishing that the head of the GLC should see fit to attack an appointment to what was undoubtedly the most demanding operational job in the police service.

Sir Kenneth Newman was entitled to look to leaders of the community for their good will and support in the difficult task that he faced.

Mr Whitelaw said Mr Boateng had strongly objected to his recent comments about "institutionalized racism" in the Metropolitan Police. He said he found it interesting that the GLC was apparently ready to go along with the great majority of Lord Scarman's recommendations, but was prepared to ignore Lord Scarman's finding that the direction and policies of the police were not racist.

The police committee had expressed a contrary view without producing any evidence, he added.

The tough stance displayed by Mr Whitelaw became apparent at the start of the meeting, which was held at the GLC's request to discuss the Scarman report and policing policies for London.

He said that before the delegation made its points he wished it to be clear that he strongly resented the much publicized comments made by Mr Livingstone.

The Home Secretary then listened to the arguments put forward, but gave no guarantees or promises. It seems unlikely that there will be a

Irony last stand of the diehards in the bunker

From Christopher Walker
Yamit, March 31

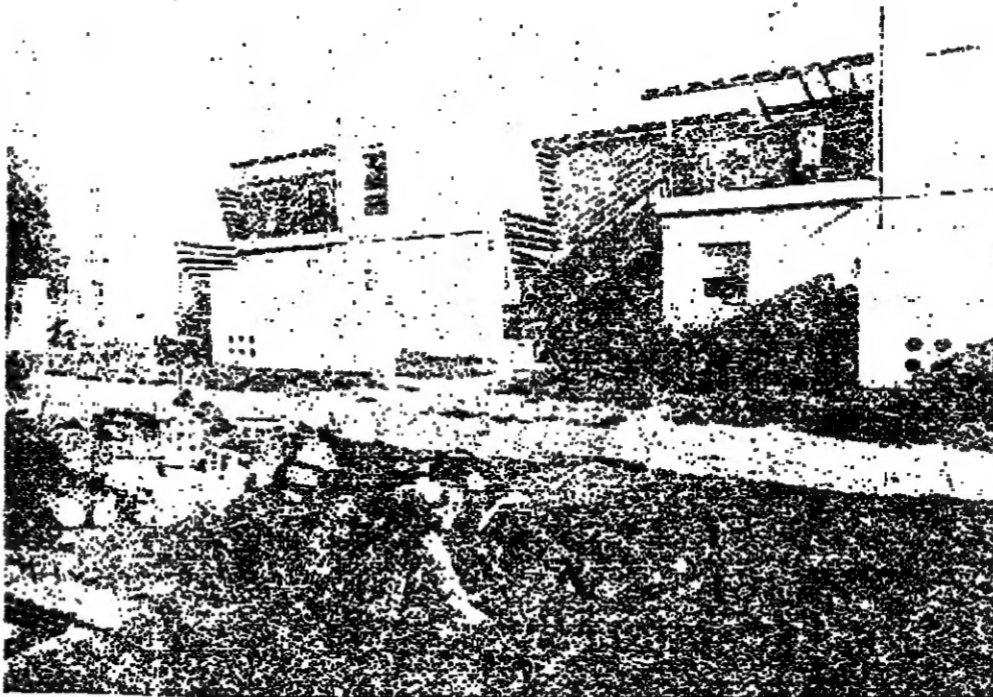
With the midnight deadline for the voluntary evacuation of all Jewish settlers from the Sinai only hours away, the area today provided little evidence of the mass confrontation with the Army which had been repeatedly threatened by the militants.

At the entrance to the main town of Yamit, a giant white dove had been painted on the sand dunes by a local Israeli artist who explained that its purpose was to convey a message of peace to the Egyptians. Close by, two Israeli soldiers lay stripped to the waist, basking in the spring sunshine.

Throughout the day, the road north was filled with lorries and trailers carrying the possessions of most of the remaining families to new homes inside Israel. Although many expressed emotion about leaving, most appeared more concerned with the practicalities of moving.

As soon as a house was vacated, it was being immediately occupied by troops to prevent any takeover by members of the Stop the Withdrawal campaign. The campaigners have already moved into several houses and erected fortifications, but it is believed that they will put up only token resistance.

Hanna, a 21-year-old student nurse who arrived two weeks ago from Jerusalem, said: "My brother is a soldier, it is our Army and we do not want to fight them. But we want to show the world how deeply we feel about having to leave our land."



At ease: Israeli soldiers relaxing as Sinai is evacuated

On the roofs of some of the occupied houses, militants have stockpiled cabbages, which are apparently intended as ammunition to hurl at troops. Others fly the Star of David.

The main centre of resistance is a white air raid shelter, dubbed Masada after an earlier Jewish siege, which is covered with graffiti and occupied by an unspecified number of teenage supporters of the extreme Kach group headed by Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Already Israeli commen-

tators have noted the irony that most of the diehards in the bunker—which is surrounded by a symbolic barrier of barbed wire and tyres—have only been in Israel a few weeks. Most came to Sinai from New York, and this morning I counted about 10 young supporters of the group anxiously hitch-hiking north.

Although no one doubts the ability of Kach to create violence, it is not expected to be on a wide scale. Even on the emotional last day of voluntary evacuation, it was

obvious that members of the group were shunned by most of the Stop the Withdrawal activists.

Mrs Esther Bazak, who is in charge of finding accommodation for the anti-withdrawal supporters who have been arriving under cover of darkness, expressed revulsion at the Kahane group. "We do not want to know about them," she said.

Today, a group of British and American correspondents tried in vain to persuade the shelter dwellers to come to the surface and explain their views, but they



refused—apparently fearful because Rabbi Kahane believes that the Israelis are intent on putting him back into administrative detention for a second time.

The scene took on an atmosphere of farce as a reporter from the Washington Post shouted through the grille, which provides the only entrance to the shelter (the door having been welded): "If you are scared of unarmed journalists, what will you be like when the soldiers arrive?" He did not receive a reply.

As with much of the resistance to the withdrawal, the fortifications and threats surrounding Rabbi Kahane's "Masada" have been staged largely for the benefit of television cameras.

Exact calculation of numbers who will stay on tomorrow to resist the troops is impossible, because for propaganda purposes the militants have from the outset deliberately overestimated their support. But no observer today was prepared to put the total at more than a few hundred, and many of those were expected to pack up before midnight.

Yugoslavia faces the cost of Kosovo

From Our Correspondent
Belgrade, March 31

Tomorrow is the first anniversary of violent demonstrations in Kosovo in which nine died, but Yugoslavia appears no nearer to solving the problems raised by Albanian nationalism.

More than 400 ethnic Albanians have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment and another 100 are awaiting trial since the eruption of nationalist feelings shook the country and confronted the Government with an assertive nationalism.

A report compiled by the federal Government and submitted for parliamentary debate also disclosed that in the past year more than 1,200 were given light sentences for disturbing the peace and 40 illegal organizations with a membership of 600, allegedly aided from Albanian organizations outside the country.

The riots, which started in March apparently over a non-political grievance among students in a university canteen, increased in violence. Attacks also grew against Yugoslav institutions and representatives in the West, leaving seven Yugoslavs dead and 20 injured, the report said.

The figures illustrate that nationalism has now spread widely and outside the Kosovo region, wherever there are Albanian communities.

London police to screen for bias

The Metropolitan Police is to introduce an experimental battery of tests designed to help in weeding out recruits with extreme attitudes, including racial bias, (our Political Correspondent writes).

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, feels that it would be premature to disclose full details of the tests because of the experimental nature of the vetting procedures.

But he has indicated in a letter to Mr John Tilley, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, that Lord Scarman's recommendation on race bias in the police service is being pursued.

Lord Scarman disclosed in his report on the Brixton disorders that the Metropolitan Police was exploring, with American assistance, whether attitude—screening can be put on a more systematic, scientific basis.

Letters, page 11

200,000 CB radio sets licensed

By Kenneth Gosling

More than 200,000 licences for citizens' band radio, which became legal last November, had been sold over post office counters by mid-March. There is no sign of the rate of sale, between 7,000 and 8,000 a week abating. Licences cost £10 each.

Many more CB sets are still being used illegally on the AM frequency, the Government is considering whether to make it an offence to sell AM sets as well as to use them.

The Consumers' Association has been monitoring members' comments on CB and today publishes the results in a Which report.

Drawbacks for users, who can only transmit legally using FM (frequency modulation), include bad language, found to be especially worrying to members with children; children using them as toys; blocking channels; and annoying other people; and interference from illegal high-powered transmitters in Britain or abroad.

The association warns users against relying on CB in an emergency, although some voluntary organizations listen for distress calls, the official rescue services do not.

Advantages include relieving the tedium of long journeys (although it is also admitted that the thrill of idle chatter to complete strangers can soon wear off); receiving and giving information about road conditions; a good means of contact for the housebound and disabled, particularly in isolated areas; and in the open country, for instance, between farmers and tractor drivers; and a good thing for small businesses where, in confined areas, CB is a cheaper alternative to radiotelephone or radiopaging.

Apartheid row over Eisteddfod

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

A political dispute over apartheid is threatening this year's Llangollen International Eisteddfod. Lord Chalfont, the president, and Mr Allan Rogers, Labour European MP for Wales South-East, and vice-president, have each demanded the other's resignation after allegations of hypocrisy.

Mr Rogers has called upon every local authority in Wales to withhold financial support from the festival until Lord Chalfont resigns and the organizers sever links with South Africa.

The Welsh anti-apartheid movement has made Lord Chalfont a target because he is president of the Freedom in Sport Association, which they say is a South African-funded front organization—an allegation that is firmly denied. They also accuse him of hypocrisy because he attended an eisteddfod in South Africa last year.

Black and white competitors from South Africa have appeared at Llangollen for many years and Mr J Noel Bowen, the chairman of the Eisteddfod, said yesterday: "Llangollen is for people of all creeds and colours and they are invited whether we agree with the regimes in their country or not."

Mr Rogers said: "I find it incredible that people from the cultural and social traditions of Wales are able to succour and give credence to a political system that discriminates on the basis of colour."

Lord Chalfont said he had no intention of resigning in the face of what he called blackmail. "I suppose they are taking this action because the Freedom in Sport Association did not object to the English cricketers going to South Africa. We take the view they have a perfect right to go wherever they please."

Consistency plea to JPs

By a Staff Reporter

Electricity boards are urging magistrates to be more consistent in their sentencing to help curb the growing problem of electricity theft in inner cities. Such thefts are costing millions of pounds a year.

In the April issue of *The Magistrates' Association*, Mr J. W. Evans, deputy chairman of the London Electricity Board, says that in the past few years there have been many more cases of people stealing electricity.

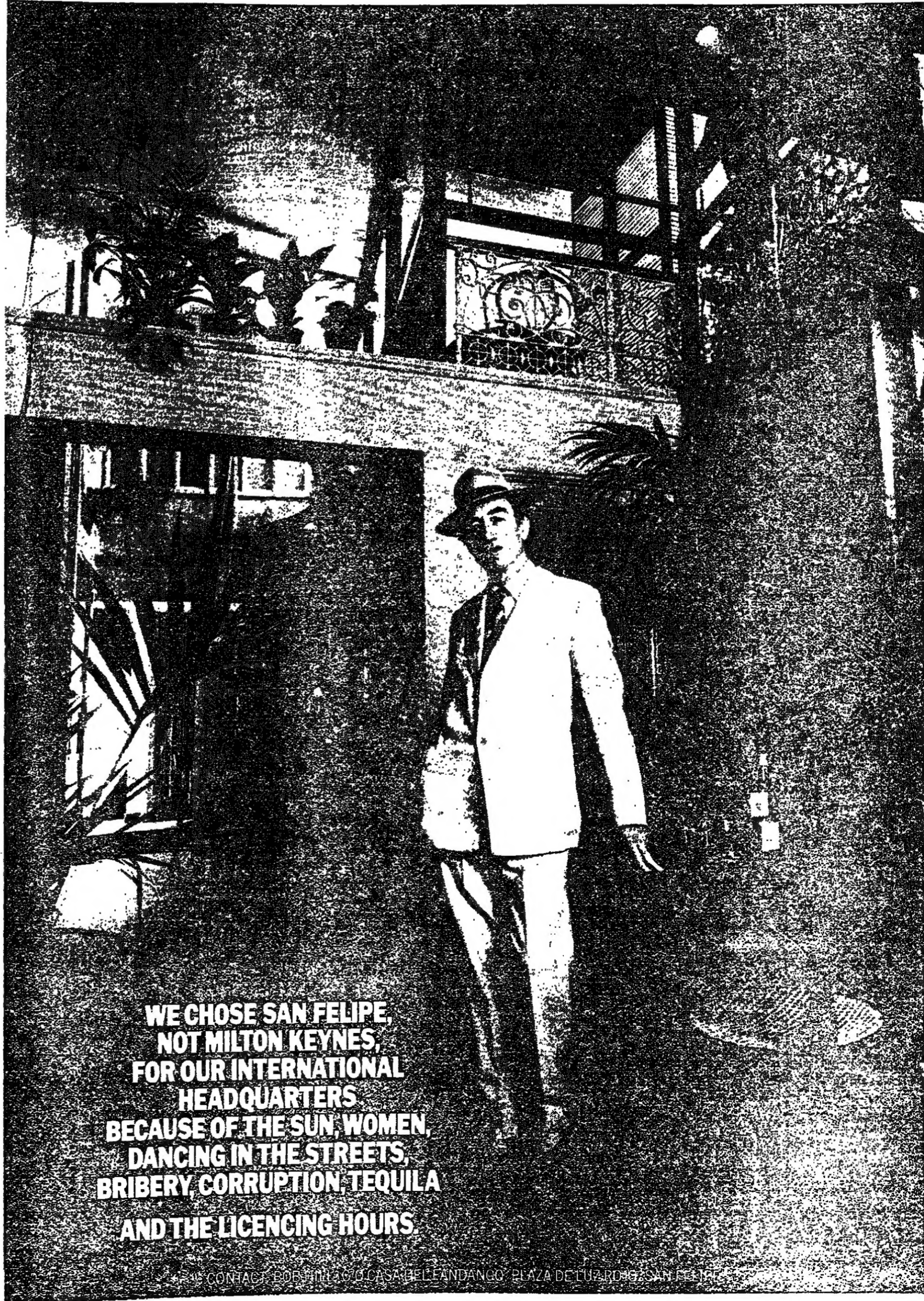
They involve either interference with the meter to cut the recorded use; by-passing the meter; or reconnecting the supplies where meters have been removed.

All methods are dangerous, Mr Evans says, and can cause shocks, burns or fires. But

the public often regard such theft "in much the same light as avoidance of payment of income tax."

The problem is particularly acute in crowded inner city areas, especially London, Liverpool, and Glasgow. But although cases often come before magistrates, no uniform line is taken. In some cases a nominal fine of £5 or £10 is imposed on social grounds; in others, prison is threatened.

He cites one case in London in which the owner of multiple properties was sentenced to three years on each of 23 offences to run concurrently and ordered to pay costs up to £1,500 and £16,500 compensation, with the right for the board to pursue civil damages.



WE CHOSE SAN FELIPE,
NOT MILTON KEYNES,
FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS
BECAUSE OF THE SUN, WOMEN,
DANCING IN THE STREETS,
BRIBERY, CORRUPTION, TEQUILA
AND THE LICENCING HOURS

CONTACT: BOB WHITE, CASABELL, PLAZA DE LA ZARZORA, SAN FELIPE

Battle of budget darkens EEC farm price talks

From Ian Murray, Brussels, March 31

European agriculture ministers this morning began the annual ritual of a three-day session to agree farm prices for the year ahead. They were well aware that whatever they decided could not take effect unless there were early agreement on the size of Britain's contribution to the EEC budget.

Mr Peter Walker, the British minister, made it quite clear from the outset that "there was no question" of agreeing a price increase without a settlement of the budget question. He said it was already accepted in the Community that the agricultural policy reform had to be settled in parallel with the budget question.

Speaking pointedly to the French, who are striving desperately to uncouple the two subjects, he said that the only countries that could ignore the budget question were those who made no contribution to the budget. It would be absurd, he said, if the British Government did not take the budget question into account in fixing prices.

Not to be outdone, Mme Edith Cresson, the French Minister, said that "if there is too much unjustified delay motivated by other than agricultural objectives, then France will draw the necessary conclusions". In her view reform of the common agricultural policy "which is necessary" should not be done purely on budget grounds.

Mme Cresson, who yesterday accused the British Government of "a kind of terrorism" in holding up a price settlement until the budget question was settled, said that reform had to take social aspects into account.

To make sure that she was not tempted in any way to sell out the interests of French farmers a delegation of French Communist Parliamentarians was following the negotiations. They handed in



Raising eyebrows: Mme Edith Cresson, the French Agriculture Minister, who accused Britain of "a kind of terrorism".

Chirac planned to travel in bombed train coach

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, March 31

M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, might have been one of the victims of the bomb explosion on the Capote, the Paris-Toulouse express on Monday night.

He was due to take the train that night to attend a meeting the next morning of the conseil general of Toulouse in Correze, where his constituency is located. He did not take the train because a friend had offered to fly him there on a private aircraft early on Tuesday.

When he takes the Capote, he always reserves seats in the coach next to the restaurant car, which was where the bomb went off because it is easier both to work and dine in it.

LAND GRAB DENIED BY GREECE

From Mario Modiano, Athens, March 31

The Greek Government today dismissed Turkish charges that it was seizing land owned by ethnic Turks in western Thrace. A spokesman said: "We are simply evicting squatters from public lands, both Christians and Muslims."

Turkey yesterday threatened reprisals against the dwindling Greek minority of Istanbul. If the Greek authorities seized land belonging to members of the Turkish minority living in North-Eastern Greece.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman, protesting against the Greek Government's refusal to open talks on the problem, said: "Recent events in Thrace demonstrate the negative attitude of the Greek Government towards Turks living in Greece."

Sabre rattling in the

South Atlantic

Argentine options limited on Falklands

By David Cross

In spite of the growing tensions between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands, the 2,000 or so islanders have so far limited their anti-Argentine protests to a few pro-British slogans.

In the most notable incident an intruder broke into the Argentine airline office in Port Stanley and covered the Argentine flag with a Union Jack. Before leaving he wrote "tit for tat" in toothpaste on one of the desks in a reference to the incident which provoked the current confrontation — the raising of the Argentine flag on the dependency of South Georgia by a group of Argentine scrap merchants.

Another slogan sprayed outside the airline office reads: "UK-OK".

The airline office has become the focus of protests because it is the most obvious symbol of Argentina's claim to sovereignty of the group of islands which have been a British colony for the past 150 years. Under a communications agreement concluded by the British and Argentine governments in 1971, Buenos Aires runs the only regular air service linking the islands with the outside world.

Each week a Fokker Friendship F27 or F28 aircraft, with seats for about 50 passengers on board, runs a weekly or twice weekly service between Port Stanley and Comodoro Rivadavia on the coast of Argentina. The aircraft also bring mail and regular supplies to supplement the spartan diets of the islanders.

The 1971 agreement, which also covers educational, medical and customs links between the islands and Argentina, laid down arrangements for Argentines and Falkland Islanders travelling to and from the islands.

The Argentine with special travel permits entitling them to free movement both on the mainland and on the islands.

The other main agreement between Britain and Argentina entitles the Argentines to supply petrol and aviation fuel to the Falkland Islanders. Under the terms of the 1974 pact, petroleum supplies are brought from the mainland and stored on tanks on the island.

Otherwise in spite of efforts by both the British and Argentine Governments to strengthen economic and political links between the islands and Buenos Aires, ties between the islanders and the Argentine remain tenuous. The occasional Argentine cruise ship calls at Port Stanley during the summer months but leaves after passengers have bought their supply of duty-free whisky, while a few children study at the British school in Cordoba in central Argentina.

With the exception of the few supplies brought in by aircraft, the vast majority of Falkland Islands trade is still transmitted by sea. The cargo ship Aes travels to and from the island four times a year carrying wool to Britain and taking supplies of all kinds to keep the Falkland Islands economy ticking over.

Telephone and telex links also bypass Argentina and are transmitted by satellite via the British Cable and Wireless Company.

If the crisis escalates, there is the real risk that the islanders will be cut off from the mainland — short of a full-scale invasion.

The most Argentine seems able to do is to stop the mail and prevent passengers from travelling to and from the islands.

In the meantime, according to the daily telex messages from the islands, the Falkland Islands and its office in London, the latest confrontation has served to heighten the apprehensions of the islanders towards Britain's defence commitment.

Leading article, page 11.

French TV Bill disappoints

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, March 31

The French Cabinet today approved the draft of the long-expected and controversial television law, which is designed to establish the independence of French radio and television from political pressure, without affecting the basic principle of the state monopoly of those media.

It follows about a dozen attempts by previous governments but it is already clear that the law falls short of the Socialist's claims when they were in Opposition that they would "free television" from state interference.

The Bill amounts only to a broad framework, and marks no clear break with the past; and it leaves unanswered such questions as the autonomy of the different channels, the extent of advertising revenue, and the role of private interests in cable television.

For the past few months the recommendations of a

special government committee, the Moinet committee, which inspired the Bill, and a number of inspired leaks about its contents, have been the subject of much controversy and criticism.

The television journalists' unions consider the Bill does not go far enough and is lacking in vision and inspiration. The Opposition argues that it will merely consolidate state interference, expand bureaucratic control and increase costs, without any improvement in creativity and the quality of programmes.

One of the main features of the Bill is the setting up of a high authority of nine members, obviously inspired by the BBC board of governors, appointed for six years and irremovable, three of them, including the chairman, are appointed by the President of the Republic, three by the President of the Senate, and



Jungle patrol: A British soldier makes friends with children in a Belize border village.

US recognizes Guatemalan junta

Guatemala City, March 31

The United States yesterday recognized the military Government which seized power in Guatemala last week, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Mr Frederic Chapin, the United States Ambassador, handed Señor Alfonso Alonzo Lima, the Guatemalan Foreign Minister, an official note on behalf of the American Government. It underlined Washington's desire to continue friendly relations and cooperation between the United States and Guatemala, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Guatemala's new rulers have abolished Congress and suspended political activity. They have pleaded both to guarantee human rights and to crush left-wing guerrillas.

President Efraim Rios Montt and the two other

members of the Junta, General Horacio Maldonado and Colonel Francisco Gordillo, also appointed a cabinet yesterday. It contains a mixture of Army officers and civilians.

The President takes the Defence portfolio, while General Maldonado becomes Minister of the Interior, and Colonel Gordillo takes over the Communications Ministry.

Other Ministers are:

Foreign: Alfonso Alonzo Lima. Agriculture: Otto Martinez Recinos. Education: Luis Mérida. Finance: Colonel Leonardo Figueroa Villate. Economy: Julio Matheu. Health: Dr Adolfo Castañeda Felice. Labour: Otto Palma Figueroa. Secretary-General of the Junta: Colonel Manuel de Jesús Giron Saenz.

Informal sources say that Señores Rios Montt, Rendon Sosa, appointed Social Welfare Minister last week, resigned a few days later for undisclosed

reasons. She held the same post briefly in the deposed Government of General Romeo Lucas Garcia. — Reuter.

San Salvador: The coalition of five right-wing parties was assured today of a commanding lead in El Salvador's Constituent Assembly. With only one or two seats still to be decided in the 60-seat assembly, and 95 per cent of the votes counted, the right-wing coalition had won 36 seats, against 24 for President José Napoleón Duarte's Christian Democratic Party.

The dominant partner in the coalition is the National Republican Alliance (Arena). Barring minor modifications affecting the seats still undecided, the line-up of parties is expected to be: Christian Democrat Party 24 seats; Arena 19; National Conciliation Party 14; Demo-

cratic Action 2; Salvadorean People's Party 1; People's Orientation Party 0.

The coalition obtained 60 per cent of the votes, while the Christian Democrats remained the largest single party with 40 per cent of the votes. — AFP.

London: Lord Chitnis, the Liberal peer and veteran election observer, said on his return from El Salvador that many people had been anxious to vote in the election there last Sunday because their identity cards were stamped when they voted (Richard Dowden writes).

Lord Chitnis said that it was impossible to judge the percentage turnout, but he thought it was relatively high. About 12.5 per cent of ballot papers were a high proportion, he said — had been spoiled.

Brazil's Third World stance under fire

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo, March 31

Brazil is coming under increasing pressure to modify its foreign policy as Central America moves to the middle of the world political stage.

Brazil's position has been that the fighting in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala should be solved by the countries concerned, and by political means. For a variety of reasons, Brazil has a different ideology of non-alignment from that of the United States and, increasingly from Argentina, which is now more assertive under its new president, General Leopoldo Galtieri.

Argentina, which has sent El Salvador free grain, is considering the dispatch of arms and is widely understood to have about 50 anti-guerrilla specialists acting as advisers in the country, as well as a smaller number of undercover men in Nicaragua. It is anxious that Brazil

should give at least some support to its line.

During a recent visit to Brasilia by Señor Nicanor Costa Mendes, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Brazil was asked to take more interest in the political affairs of Bolivia, where precarious military regimes in power since 1980 have been given Argentine political support, as well as \$800m (about £444m) in loans.

The joint communiqué at the end of the visit was non-committal, and Señhor Saravia Guereiro, the Brazilian Foreign Minister, has reiterated that Brazil sees the growing divergence between the North and South as of more importance than East-West differences.

The minister has said he regrets the return of Cold War postures, which are detrimental to the interests of Third World countries. This point attracted the retort during Señor Nicanor Mendes's visit that Argentina

by virtue of its per capita income, is not a member of the Third World at all.

The new American Ambassador to Brazil, Mr Anthony Motley, has also said that he cannot understand Brazil's interest in the Third World.

One reason why Brazil has adopted such a non-ideological position in the past decade — being among the first to recognize such regimes as the MPLA in Angola, and withdrawing recognition from the Somoza regime in Nicaragua — while Argentina officers were still supporting it — is that Brazil has the long-term aim of becoming a leader of at least one tendency within the Third World.

Fundamental trade priorities are another reason for Brazil's stance.

Almost half of Brazil's exports now go to the Third World countries in Africa and the rest of Latin

America. Furthermore of the fastest growing exports — manufactures — two-thirds go the Third World.

Argentina, on the other hand, exports only a few commodities to a very few countries, most of them developed.

Recent political events also partly explain the difference. If there was a left-wing assault on the Brazilian state in the early 1970s, it involved only a few dozen guerrillas.

Things have been very different in Argentina, where the death toll in the recent guerrilla years was more than 10,000, and the state came under threat. As a result of the violence with which Argentina destroyed the guerrillas, it became a pariah in the world community, and now its political priority, reiterated during the Foreign Minister's visit here, is unqualified support to United States policy.

BERLINGUER IN PARIS ACCORD

Paris, March 31. — Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Italian Communist leader, in Paris for talks with Socialist leaders, today met President Mitterrand for more than an hour.

Signor Berlinguer said after the meeting at the Elysee Palace that there were "many points of convergence between Italian Communists and French Socialists".

He talked for four hours yesterday with M. Lionel Jospin, First Secretary of the Socialist Party. The two sides, according to sources, are agreed on at least three fundamental points.

They oppose the system of blocks, East and West.

AFP.

Columbia prepared for fourth mission in June

From Piers Akerman, Houston, March 31

The Russians have expressed alarm over the success of the American space shuttle programme, saying it would play a central role in Pentagon plans to use space for military purposes.

Comments on the flight of Columbia said the shuttle programme had now shed its science-oriented clothes. Red Star, the army newspaper, said today: "Plans envisage the use of the spacecraft to launch military communications, weather forecasting and spy satellites fitted with special equipment to pinpoint launches of ballistic missiles while the orbiter itself will carry instrumentation to detect the exhaust flames of rocket engines."

The paper accused the United States of cold-shouldering Soviet proposals at the United Nations to ban the placing of weapons in outer space. It said "imperialist warmongers" were seeking to use scientific and technological progress for aggression.

The Russians have not developed a shuttle in their own space programme, which Western analysts say is many years behind the Americans in this respect.

The space shuttle Columbia will be loaded on to a converted 747 transporter next Wednesday and flown from White Sands missile range in New Mexico to the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida in preparation for its fourth mission now scheduled for late June.

Within hours of landing yesterday the Columbia was hoisted above the dry gypsum runway and prepared for the arrival of the transporter.

Mr Glynn Lunney, manager of the space shuttle programme office at the Johnson Space Centre, said Columbia had lost no more of the heat protection tiles during landing. Shortly after launch it was discovered that about 37 of the silicon tiles had been lost from the skin of the craft.

Mr Lunney said that Columbia was in better shape after its third flight than it was after its second. On its fourth mission Columbia will be carrying a top secret payload for the Department of Defence. It will make its fifth flight in late November or December before being returned to the Edwards Air Force Base in California for modifications and overhaul.

OAU talks boycotted in Zimbabwe

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, March 31

Eight African states protesting against the presence of a delegation from the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) boycotted the opening session of a meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) here today.

Representatives of the eight states defied orders by a Zimbabwe Government minister to leave the vicinity of the meeting if they were not attending. They said the gathering was illegal because under no OAU charter there was no quorum.

The dispute over the membership of the SADR — recently agreed by a majority of OAU states in spite of the continuing war in the western Sahara — has now disrupted the last three OAU meetings and threatens to cause a major split in the organization.

The eight nations who boycotted the meetings today, causing the opening to be postponed, were Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, Somalia, Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Liberia and Zaire.

Mr Kumbirai Kangai, Zimbabwe's Minister of Labour, pleaded in vain with the delegates to enter the hall.

After a postponement Mr Kangai told them that if they were not attending the meeting, on the conference floor of a Salisbury hotel, they should go down to the foyer.

They refused and when an official repeated the order the leader of the Senegal delegation said: "If you want, we will stay. If you want, you can bring your police to take us out."

The boycotters emphasized that they meant no discourtesy to their Zimbabwean hosts.

Uganda defeats rebels

From Our Correspondent, Nairobi, March 31

Ugandan government control has been restored in the West Nile district, bordering on Zaire and Sudan, much of which has been held by anti-government rebels for more than a year, the Ugandan authorities said today.

Administrative officials from Arua, the main town in the area, and Major John Ogole, the local army commander, have had meetings

with Zairean officials in the border town of Aru and with Sudanese officials in Kaya, close to the border.

One result of the operation against the rebels has been a new influx of Ugandan refugees into both Zaire and Sudan. Sudanese officials say that 10,000 Ugandans have fled there. They have appealed for international aid to help, to care for them.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Iran says it will not invade Iraq

Hojatolislam Ali Khamenei, the President of Iran, said on Tehran radio yesterday that Iranian forces would not move into Iraq after their offensive in the Gulf war.

The radio, monitored by the BBC in London, quoted the President as saying the Muslims of Iraq were Iran's brothers. But he said: "Our support for them does not mean that we will take our forces inside Iraqi territory." He emphasized that Iran had no designs on Iraqi territory.

Iraq has disclosed that its forces have withdrawn to new positions after the week-long Iranian offensive.

In Rome, Hojatolislam Hadi Khosrow-Sohi, the Iranian Ambassador to the Vatican, told a press conference that Iran had beaten Iraq. He said Iraqi troops still on Iranian soil would be forced to leave.

Danish wives to keep own names

Copenhagen. — Denmark is introducing legislation allowing married women to retain their maiden names (Christopher Follett writes). Unless they expressly wish it, they will no longer automatically assume their husband's surname on marriage.

Parents will also have the right to decide which of their two surnames their children take.

Cape Town

Johannesburg. — Sir Leonard Allison, the foreign Office official who is Britain's representative on the five-nation Western "contact group" on Namibia, has arrived in Cape Town to have talks with South African officials, and possibly Mr R. Botha, the Foreign Minister. (Michael Hornsby writes).

Dr Chester Crocker, the American Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, is in Luanda for official talks with Mr Sam Nujoma, the leader of the South West Africa People's Organization whose guerrillas have been fighting for the independence of Namibia for 16 years.

13 sentenced to death in Aden

Aden. — Thirteen Yemenis were sentenced to death here for plotting to sabotage South Yemen's economic and oil installations with "outside" help.

One of the accused said in evidence that he was trained to use time bombs and other explosive devices by Americans in an unnamed foreign country.

New Cabinet for Surinam

Paramaribo. — Surinam's ruling military council named a Cabinet to succeed the civilian administration it ousted in February.

Mr Henri Neyhorst, aged 44, an economist, becomes Prime Minister and Finance Minister. The new Cabinet has been given the task of transforming this South American country of 375,000 people, a former Dutch colony, into a socialist state.

Distant quasar being studied

Canberra. — Australian scientists said they had discovered a quasar (quasi-star) 20,000 million light years away that is probably the most distant object ever observed from earth. They used locally-based radio and optical telescopes in an intensive six-year search.

Aggett friend's TV interview

The girl friend of Dr Neil Aggett (above), the South African trade unionist found dead in his cell at security police headquarters in Johannesburg on February 5, says that a man who knew him could not believe that he took his own life.

Dr Liz Floyd, who was detained and held in solitary confinement at the same time as Dr Aggett, will be seen on Thames Television's TV Eye tonight. She adds: "I think that my own experience is that I am not surprised that a detainee has died."

Citizenship revoked

Palm Beach, Florida. — A Ukrainian immigrant had his American citizenship revoked after a judge found he had concealed his collaboration with Nazi occupation forces in the Second World War.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Iran says it will not invade Iraq

Tehran, April 1. — The President of Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini, said today that Iranian forces would not move into Iraq after the ceasefire in the Gulf war. The radio, monitored by the BBC in London, quoted Khomeini as saying that Iranian forces would not move into Iraq after the ceasefire in the Gulf war. He said that the Iranian forces would not move into Iraq after the ceasefire in the Gulf war. He said that the Iranian forces would not move into Iraq after the ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Danish wives to keep own names

Copenhagen, April 1. — Danish law is introducing legislation allowing married women to retain their maiden name. The law will allow women to keep their own names after marriage. This is a significant change in Danish law.

Cape Town

Cape Town, April 1. — The South African government has announced that it will not allow the entry of certain individuals. This decision was made after a thorough review of the situation.

13 sentenced to death in Aden

Aden, April 1. — A court in Aden has sentenced 13 individuals to death. The court found them guilty of various crimes. This is a significant legal decision.

New Cabinet for Surinam

Paramaribo, April 1. — The government of Surinam has announced a new cabinet. This marks a new chapter in the country's political life.

Distant quasar being studied

Astronomers are studying a distant quasar. This research is part of a larger project to understand the universe.

Agassi friends TV interview

Friends of tennis player Andre Agassi are being interviewed on TV. This is a special event for fans.

General Giap is demoted by Hanoi congress

From David Watts, Singapore, March 31

General Vo Nguyen Giap, the veteran Vietnamese leader who built up the Vietnam forces fighting the French from 1945 and was later the Defence Minister during the war against the Americans, has been removed by the fifth national congress from the party Politburo. His demotion was one of a series of changes that came at the close of the congress, in Hanoi, setting the pattern for the next five years in both political and economic matters. He was replaced in the number six position by general Van Thieu, the former Minister of Defence, who led Hanoi's troops in the 1975 campaign that ended with the capture of Saigon.

General Giap has been steadily losing influence since the disastrous 1975 offensive of 1975, which cost 85 per cent of communist cadres in the South. He remains his position in the Central Committee. General Giap was one of six members of the Politburo who were not re-elected at today's final session of congress. The others appeared to be replaced for a variety of reasons ranging from age to recent failures. Most notable of the latter was Mr Le Thanh Nghi, who was removed as chairman of the State Planning Commission last year for the failure of economic policies.

Two former alternate members of the Politburo promoted to full members were Mr To Huu and Mr Vo Van Kiet, both younger politicians whose stars are rising rapidly by Vietnamese standards. Mr To Huu is widely tipped for the higher posts in the party in later years. A poet, he had his work quoted a number of times during the congress.

Mr Kiet's promotion is significant as an attempt to involve the southern part of the country more in national affairs. He was party secretary in Ho Chi Minh City (previously Saigon). Mr Nguyen Co Thach, the Foreign Minister, who was promoted to alternate member of the Politburo, is another of the younger generation whom the party is trying to bring in. Despite predictions, there were no changes at the very top of the Politburo and the top five members keep their old positions despite reports of the ill health of Mr Le Duan, Secretary General.



General Giap: Leader in fight against colonial rule. This photograph was taken in 1971.

Opposition poised for triumph in Victoria

From Douglas Aiton Melbourne, March 31

Three days before the important Victoria state election, the latest poll, by The Age newspaper, says the opposition Labour party has lost 7 per cent of its support in one week, but is still in a most commanding position.

The poll was taken last weekend and shows that Labour would have taken 53 per cent of the vote and the ruling Liberal party only 36 per cent. Even if Labour dropped another 7 per cent this week, on the figures they would still win the election, so it now looks as though there will be a Labour government in Victoria for the first time since 1955.

This is certain to cause consternation in Mr Malcolm Fraser's federal government. There is a federal election due next year and at the moment the polls say Labour would win that too. The loss of Victoria would further trouble the federal government.

It is significant that Mr Fraser himself has not played any part in the campaigning for the Victoria Liberals. This is probably because his own popularity rating is not high at the moment and he would not be particularly welcome.

At the moment it would be very difficult indeed to find anyone prepared to put money on a Liberal victory.



Paratrooper drop ends in disaster

Private Steve Harshberger of the 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, loaded with parachutes and with a bloody face after a disastrous parachute exercise in the Mojave Desert near Fort Irwin, California in which four men were killed and 71 injured, three of them critically. More than 2,300 paratroopers took part in the first exercise of units of the Rapid Deployment Task Force from all military services. It was one of the largest American parachute exercises in peacetime.

Spanish outcry at surgeon's killing

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, March 31

The killing last night of a leading surgeon who had earlier reported a suspected member of the ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty) organization, has brought renewed tension throughout Spain's troubled northern region. ETA has claimed responsibility for the killing.

Versions of the reason for the murder differed. The Spanish General Council of Doctors stated originally that the surgeon had reported treating the suspected terrorist to the authorities, but later the council said he was killed for having refused to attend an ETA member.

To underline the dilemma of doctors working in the Basque region, local people are also worried at the death of a general practitioner from a heart attack shortly after he had been interrogated over nine days by Civil Guards about alleged medical contacts with terrorists.

Six people — four policemen, a senior telephone executive, and a young woman — have been killed by Basque terrorists over the past fortnight. This has created high political tension which the Calvo Sotelo Government had hoped at all costs to avoid for fear of its impact on the court martial proceedings in Madrid of those involved on last year's attempt to overthrow democracy.

The difficulties for doctors in the Basque region, who have an obligation to save anyone's life, have never been so starkly revealed before. The most incisive comment came today from the new Basque left-wing political movement, formed largely from former ETA members, which described the surgeon's death as: "This is the ETA's demonstration how ETA's military wing has degenerated into naked terrorism. He who does not pay ETA's revolutionary tax is assassinated and he who does not attend ETA patients is also assassinated."

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Unequal success against the Red and the Black

From John Earle, Rome, March 31

The Red Brigades are on the run, but no one thinks terrorism in Italy has been eliminated. "In three or six months we risk a new offensive," says Signor Giorgio Benvenuto, secretary of the trade union confederation UIL.

His organization, composed mostly of socialist republicans and Social Democrats, has been particularly affected, since Signor Luigi Scricciolo, its official spokesman, is in prison under investigation for alleged links with the Red Brigades.

Signor Benvenuto has replaced him for the time being with Signor Rocco Canciani, aged 33, a former worker in Alfa Romeo.

Alfa Romeo in Milan, along with Fiat in Turin and Montedison's petrochemical works at Porto Marghera, have been prominent Red Brigades targets in recent years, with a series of kidnappings, killings and kneecappings. A Turin magistrate recently pointed out that more than a third of those arrested from the Red Brigades "column" were workers at Fiat, including some shop stewards.

In Milan, Signor Benvenuto emphasizes that the so-called "Walter Alasia column" of the Red Brigades, which last summer kidnapped Alfa Romeo's head of labour relations, has not been wiped out, though it has suffered losses.

It has long had some influence in the factory, and it may be significant that clashes have taken place this week between workers and factory guards over a redundancy scheme accepted by the unions. Since the liberation from

Red Brigades captivity of General James Doolittle on January 28, the authorities have arrested 340 alleged left-wing terrorists, and discovered 45 hideouts or bases; but the number of alleged right-wing terrorists detained was only 45.

The Government is aware that its success against "red" terrorism has been much greater than against the "black" variety. Ministers ascribe this partly to the fact that Red extremists have an ideological motivation which seeks popular consent, and partly to the fact that they are not forthcoming, dissent arises among their ranks which can be exploited by the authorities.

"Black" terrorism, on the other hand, explodes bombs. A long series of explosions have gone unpunished: from the bank at Piazza Fontana in Milan in December, 1969 (16 dead) to that at Piazza della Loggia in Bologna (12 dead) and on the Brennero express near Florence (12 dead) in 1978, to that at Bologna station (more than 80 dead) in 1980.

The reaction of a minister on hearing of the Paris-Toulon train explosion was that this bore a typically neo-fascist stamp.

In Rome, it is not thought that European terrorist activities are all part of some international conspiracy. Rather, it is believed that different movements have for years given technical and logistical support, though their ideology can be very different. The IRA and the Basque extremists, for example, have a different motivation to the Red Brigades or the German Red Army Group.

Absurd Man...

Clinging to the Wreckage
By John Mortimer

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £8.95)

"Drawing out are we today?" glinted the bank manager at the poor young barrister and writer standing before him. "Or are we paying in?"

"Drawing out actually," I admitted. "I mean, we've got to live."

"No 'got to' about it," the manager said sharply. "In fact, many people have to learn that living is quite unnecessary."

It gave me no satisfaction to learn that, the following week, my bank manager had fallen off the platform at Charing Cross and been killed instantly by an oncoming Northern Line. I have learned that it is very unwise to prophesy other people's deaths.

John Mortimer illustrates the point further with an even better story about a fortune-teller who failed to see farther than the end of September because she herself, not the client, was due to die on October 1. It is strange that he discovered the (tragicomic) nature of fate comparatively late, for it turns out to be his natural element and this exceptional ally touching and funny memoir is rich in remarkable occasions and disconcerting surprises which further embellish the epigraph from Camus placed at the head of the book: "For the absurd man it is not a matter of explaining and solving but of experiencing and describing. Everything begins with a lucid indifference."

We are invited then to enjoy *Clinging to the Wreckage*, a 200 page account of Mortimer's life up to the 1970s and the first stage performance of *Voyage Round My Father* as a Portrait of the Artist as the Absurd Man, and the final paragraph of all reminds us that the result is only "a part of life, seen from one point of view" (suggesting, I suppose, that it is not a matter of explaining and solving but of experiencing and describing. Everything begins with a lucid indifference.)

This, of course, is the most terrific English understatement and nothing to do with lucid indifference in the French manner at all, for behind the thick spectacles and the whimsical Hapsburg chin lies the watchfulness of a writer trying to hear the sound of his own voice, much bewilderment and some pain. Gentleness is one of the virtues he most admires in other men - it is rarely, if ever, applied to a woman in this book - but it is a gentleness that has as little to do with timidity as goodness has with blind faith. The author of *Clinging to the Wreckage* is a good man as Anton Chekhov was a good man.

A whole series of reveries and absurdities, some spectacular and some mild, unfolds around the only child's progress from Chilworth to Harrow, Oxford, the Crown Film Unit and years of divorce work in the High Court followed, as he puts it, by a switch to crime. Grandfather Mortimer was a Bristol brewer who took the Pledge. John's father, as we know from *Voyage*, was stuck blind in the garden and spent the rest of his life and career pretending the accident had not taken place.

this, his son has now decided, was out of easiness, not courage. A film studio, which John was invited to write after the war, had totally vanished when he reported for work next day; his closest friend at Oxford, who had introduced him to music and the possibility of unforced moral example, was a pacifist who murdered his mistress and poisoned himself in a wood. The memory shakes him still, and it shakes the book, too.

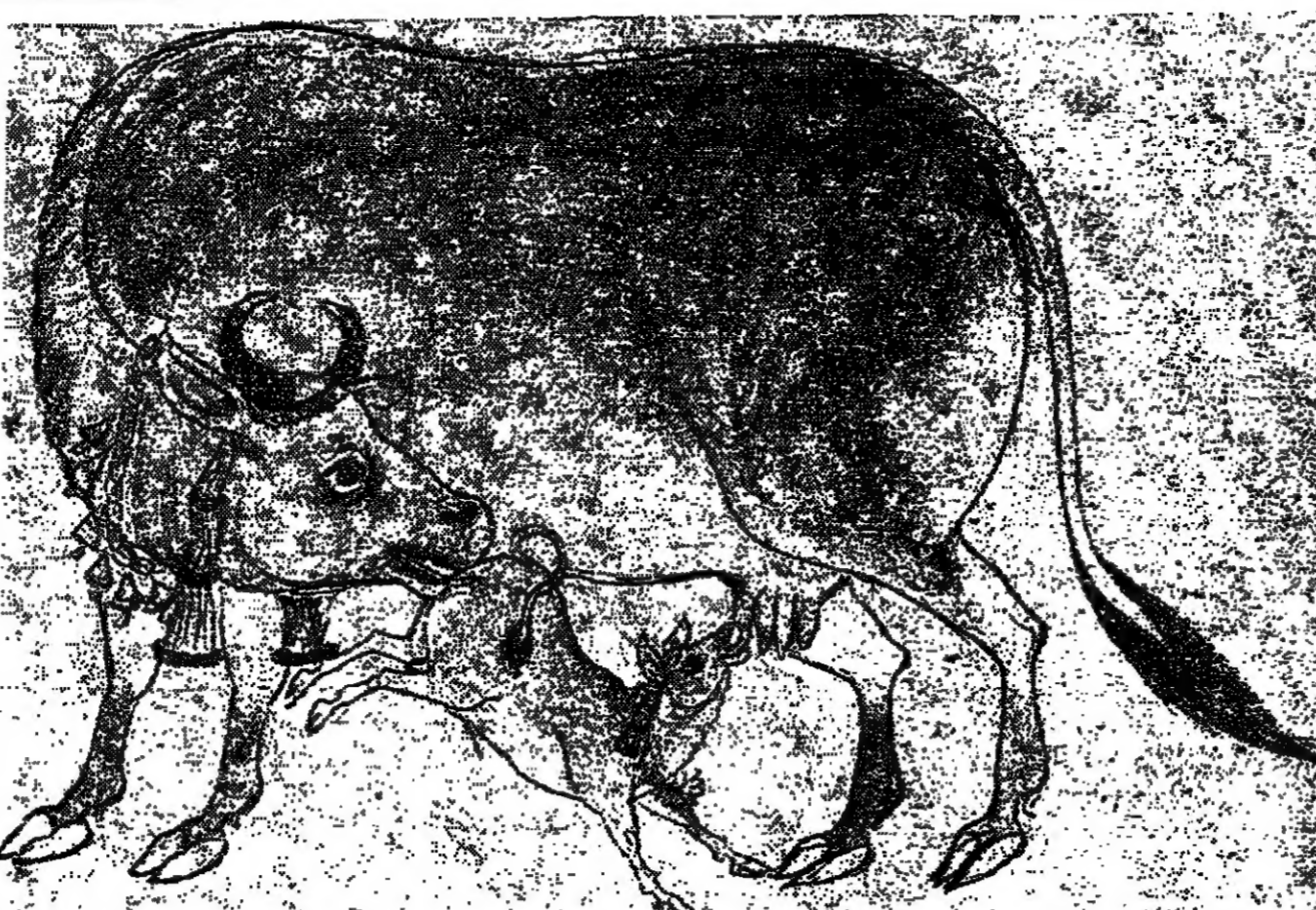
He writes of all these things at exactly the right length and weight, and the whole book is a model of allusive compactness. *Clinging to the Wreckage* contains almost as many lightning sketches as *Dead Souls*; rich Uncle Harold who controlled by slide-rule the length of everything in his life from the beds he sold to the clothes he wore and the bacon he ate at breakfast; Mulard, the loyless bodger of Turville who allowed his family one experience of pleasure a year; his ancient cylinder of "The Laughing Friar" at Christmas; the Finchley Road shrinks who watched John's marriage die; Sargent, Anatol de Grunwald, Kenneth Tynan and John Osborne. The sketches are sharp, compassionate and just. My favourite is the General who had not spoken to his wife for years. He addressed savage little notes to the items of furniture her family had supplied: "You are a very vulgar little sideboard. Go back to Whitley's where you came from."

Marriage and divorce informed his earlier years and helped make him a writer. A kind of agreed truce, or pact, seems to surround his own first, to Penelope Dimont, which lasted 20 years and was fairly famous in its time. Rare glimpses are allowed of Penelope's zestful comic despair, typing away surrounded by tumbling small girls; of John and Penelope



quarrelling on a flamingo hunt in the Camargue; and of The Protesting Mortimers of Suez and CND - "Penelope was better at demonstrations than I, more determined in Downing Street and much more resolute in Grosvenor Square" - but the details are blurred for now. The marriage ends, like so much in the book, in tragicomic farce, as both parties leave items of expensive dental capping in the same spare rib at the restaurant of the Rose Garden in Regent's Park. That's his version: I can't wait to read hers.

Michael Ratcliffe



Cow licks, calf sucks, by the Rajasthan school circa 1800 in Devgarh from In The Image Of Man, the Indian perception of the Universe through 2,000 years of painting and sculpture. Weidenfeld, £7.50.

Exploring the subtleties of woman

Letters from Colette
Selected and Translated by Robert Phelps

(Virago, £6.95)

Robert Phelps is a Colette anthologist, an excellent one, whose notations and bibliographic data add a pleasing dimension to *Earthly Paradise*, selections from her work, and *Belles Soirées*, a biographical scrapbook, volumes which have vastly increased Colette's popularity with English readers. The qualities - judicious selectivity and stimulating appetizers - which enhance his previous Coletteiana, may well reduce the final impact of his *Letters from Colette*, which, wishing to cover all aspects, conveys an impression of scrappiness, selections mostly of a few paragraphs, often one, there being falling in line with the flavour of the Colette wine to satisfy one's palate: this is a sniffing at the aroma. There are five weighty volumes of

Colette's letters three of which are addressed to three separate recipients, and one regrets that this first introduction to Colette the letter-writer should not have been served with a full translation of at least one of these. In particular the letters to her life-long friend, actress Marguerite Moreno, should never be truncated; an autobiographical volume in itself, Colette wrote at great length to Moreno, as she also did to poet Renée Vivien and writer Helene Picard.

However, grumble over (one can never have enough of Colette), Mr Phelps's little book (213 pages) recommends itself since he is Colette's and his chronological-autobiographical treatment covers pretty well, if only in snippets, all the known events and people of Colette's life. Mr Phelps is to be congratulated in choosing one fragment (there are many others) which puts paid to the oft repeated myth that

Willy wrote the Claudine books: "when Willy did me the dubious honour of signing my novels, he would occasionally insert into my texts a few words designed to gratify his personal spite. He usually called this collaboration."

Stressed also is Colette's professional dedication, both as writer and artist-mime: she had a horror of idleness, especially in herself, this clearly inherited from that inspiring mother, Sido, whose hands were never idle. Her generosity to friends and fellow-writers is evident, and her total concern with the sensual world of animals, plants and weather. In Colette's writing one ever comes up against the vivid truism of her being so utterly French; her remaining in Paris during the second world war is a great Colette touch ("I always spend my winters in Paris"), when the radio talks and magazine articles were her playing mame (ousting Sido in chat

role) to all French women suffering under the Nazi yoke.

What comes through these letters most is that her letters to women friends are deeper, more revealing, than letters to male friends who were treated as cupids, even if lovers. Women were to be most courted, as she courted her mother to whom she wrote daily (have all these really been destroyed one wonders), and there is that fine sensuality in letters to Moreno (of whom she wrote "she was so little made for dying") Picard and Vivien. Always a touch of flirtatiousness, of confidence entrusted, which is not surprising when one considers how wonderfully the novelist in her explored the subtleties of women. She needed a man about her life, often several, but she required the seduction of women (even metaphorically) to enable her genius to produce its finest blossom.

Kay Dick

Having a bash with Ogden Nash

A Penny Saved is Impossible
By Ogden Nash

(Andre Deutsch, £5.95)

On my only meeting with Ogden Nash I paid him a compliment in a flash, quoting from a poem of his in the *New Yorker* which in my view was a corker. It didn't go well. Still, you can never tell. There are people who can't handle praise, and change the subject or avert the gaze. Once, during the noisy drinks before a Wednesday lunch, I found this with dear old diffident "Eve", ex, but only just, editor of *Punch*. I forget what it was he'd written, but I was sufficiently smitten, as we were standing on the editorial landing, to proffer my shy bouquet. He drew me away by the arm, seeking, as I thought, for a response of

charm, but said, instead, after a temporizing frown, "Why is it in this place you can always tell from up here what soup you're going to get two floors down?"

This isn't to say that things can't go the other way. When I told Perelman (Sid), that I thought some recent *Meistertrick* was the best thing he'd ever did - this was a chat in the Savage Club low - he gave the paper towels a tweak and said, yes, it was one of his favourites too. I suppose there's no reason why such gifted blokes shouldn't enjoy their own jokes, though if it came to a choice of responding, I'd think of the whole I'd rather have E. V. Knox's than Sid's. Nash, I painfully recall, didn't respond at all. Well, there may have been a non-committal reference to the weather. Later I discovered that I'd commended him for a piece that wasn't by him at

all but someone else altogether. I said get little rushes of hot flushes at the recollection.

So Ogden's new selection, though his chance of being reached by these observations is now, alas, remote, at least gives me the opportunity to make amends by paying him a compliment or two on something he actually wrote.

And, oh, boy. Is his work a joy? Not just for the happy horsing around with sound; the lightrope suspending of always ungrateful endings; the spot-on timing in passages which even the aficionado begins to feel are an unconscious time e-rhyming; the seeming flouting of metre, producing in fact an effect often rhythmically sweeter than, damn it, different poet achieves through the fabled pentameter. . . .

All those things are fun, but if you think that's the whole of it you haven't begun, because what we have here, let's be clear, is a clinical, yet never cynical, light, illuminating the entire human plight, from the hell of selling houses, to bills, and bellobos and the unattractive aspect of lady golfers' tennis. I'm alone (and plus) when you come right down to it, it's all about us.

Don't try to read it in a day. You'll end up talking his way. Keep the book close, handy for the occasional dose. Gorge it at a gulp, and your mind will be a singing pulp. Believe me, I know, as this lot, I think, is only too apparent by this time, only appears to show. It's been a right headache to do.

But this time, at any rate, dear Ogden, it's for you.

Basil Boothroyd

Action man

The Years of Upheaval, 1973-1977
By Henry Kissinger

(Michael Joseph, £15.95)

Reviewing the first volume of Henry Kissinger's memoirs for this paper I concluded that he "will be judged well by history. For on the major issue concerning the Soviet Union and the delicate balance of power which determines our survival he is shown to be careful, clear-headed, constrained and consistent". Nothing in the 1200-plus pages of this second volume which covers his period as Secretary of State under President Nixon, gives me grounds for reviewing that judgement.

In a dense and detailed book the gold is contained in those pages covering nearly half the book which deal with the October six-day 1973 Middle East War, the Egyptian-Israeli disengagement ending with the thirty-four day shuttle to conclude a Syrian-Israeli disengagement agreement on 31 May, 1974. The rest of the book is a combination of overdrawn sentiment over Watergate, ingratiating pen portraits of world leaders geared, one senses, more to serialization rights than to history, and too much self-justification over Chile, Cambodia and the disastrous Year of Europe initiative.

But these are minor blemishes on a superb account of the diplomatic effort to resolve the Middle East War. It is for this diplomatic gold that this book deserves to be remembered as does its author. October 1973 was the most dangerous superpower clash since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. Henry Kissinger dominated the handling of the 1973 crisis at every stage. He did so not just because President Nixon was being destroyed by Watergate but because the man was made for the crisis. He knew the politics of the Middle East extremely well, had an intimate knowledge of two of the key personalities, Prime Minister Golda Meir and President Sadat, and above all had established a close working relationship with the Soviet leader, President Brezhnev, the Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and the Soviet Ambassador in Washington, Anatoly Dobrynin. This was done over four and half years as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, through a back channel diplomacy at a level which no-one who had only been Secretary of State under the American system could ever achieve.

Kissinger showed the quality of his judgment on October 6, 1973, the first day of the war when on the crucial issue of arms aid to Israel he realized that the United States could not and should not pretend to be an "honest broker" between the Arabs and Israelis and that if the United States refused aid Israel would have no incentive to heed United States views in the postwar diplomacy. Britain had shown how far it had slipped in its refusal to pay any price for retaining influence in the Middle East when it refused Israel's request for arms and let the United States understand that they should not use United States bases in Britain for the airlift or for intelligence collection in the Middle East.

David Owen

At exactly the right moment Kissinger understood that he had to deal with the Soviet Union having delayed as long as he could, and by flying at the request to Moscow on 20 October he showed his realism and readiness to compromise. He also showed that people's actions in government are often more representative than their criticisms out of government. How Henry Kissinger can square his recent advocacy of dropping a strategic dialogue with the Soviet Union over the Polish crisis on the grounds of "linkage" is baffling.

When on 24 October the Soviet Union threatened the imposition of a comprehensive peace Kissinger did not doubt that that was a challenge to the US that had to be faced down, and it was he who guided the President to take the dramatic decision to put US forces on the alert. All of these actions were in a sense predictable, arising out of his sense of geopolitics and of superpower relations. What was not so easy to predict was his readiness to involve himself in the mechanics of negotiating the two disengagement agreements. Here he has to put up with the frustration of endless semantic quibbling between small nations unable to grasp the broad strategic interests which he was trying to defend. It is to Kissinger's credit that he brought onto the world stage all the paraphernalia of demilitarized zones and peacekeeping forces, equipped with the modern technology. This was what overcame the instability of a negotiated ceasefire between countries equipped with modern superpower warheads. The margin between safety and extinction is judged in minutes rather than days.

The Middle East is still bedevilled by theologians of UN resolutions and those for whom a just outcome can wait for decades. Kissinger's triumph to demonstrate that the step-by-step approach could produce results and might eventually be the path to the comprehensive peace we all seek. He was right to separate the Egyptian from the Syrians and to negotiate first with President Sadat. This approach, and the relationship established with President Sadat was the precursor for Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and to Camp David. Europe, always sceptical of the revolutionary approach to the Middle East is today, as in the past, pressing for rapid resolution. After Sinai is returned to Egypt most of Europe wants to forego the intermediate stage of autonomy and go instead for instant statehood for the West Bank. That is not a negotiable position and for better or for worse there is no alternative for the present than for a United States Secretary of State to force Israel to implement to the letter the full Camp David accords.

That is the message of Henry Kissinger's experience for Al Haig, his successor at the White House and the State Department. We must all hope he will become as active in the pursuit of peace in the Middle East as Henry Kissinger. If not this region will once again drag the whole world to the precipice of war.

David Owen

Fiction

At Freddie's
By Penelope Fitzgerald

(Collins, £6.50)

The Making of the Representative for Planet 8
By Doris Lessing

(Cape, £6.50)

The world of theatre conjures up images of glamour and excitement. The immense dedication required of and hardships endured by its individuals do not immediately spring to mind. For the children at the Temple Stage School, universally known as Freddie's, the uphill struggle has already begun. Vying fiercely with each other for attention and praise they live, breathe, and speak the theatre.

Penelope Fitzgerald's novel plunges the reader into the midst of the school's precarious existence, threatened by ill-fortunes and the inability to move with the times. The indomitable Freddie presides over the establishment, a legendary figure in her profession.

Hannah, the gentle stage-struck teacher and her hopelessly adoringly in her wake; the irrefragable child actor Mattie; and the serious, talented Jonathan - the destinies of all these characters are inextricably bound up in the place.

The original style in which this book is written and its skilfully unpredictable ending make it compelling and most enjoyable to read. Doris Lessing's fourth book in her series "Canopus in Argos: Archives" is a chilling experience in more ways than one. It concerns a

prosperous and sunny planet which suddenly has to cope with an ice age which encompasses its entire surface.

Hitherto having known only warmth and comfort, the planet's inhabitants and food plentiful, the people of Planet 8 are slowly roused out of their torpor by a Representative formed under the guidance of the Canopean Agents.

As the planet gradually and unreluctantly reverts to an icy, sterile waste its inhabitants struggle to salvage the only remnants they are left with - their actual selves.

Doris Lessing gently suggests that we might look at our own lives and the events that surround them and compare them with evolutions and occurrences in other existences.

A single day spent on a frozen river in the Fens provides the setting for Marina Warner's *The Skating Party* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £6.95). The narrative dips and turns amongst the company as it makes its way downstream.

Michael, the university anthropologist who is hosting the outing with his wife Viola, is infatuated with the fascinating eighteen-year-old, Katy, striving to make her own mark in the art world by unravelling a mystery involving a Renaissance fresco-cy and a mound up in her rebellious daughter, Timmo, endeavours to understand the powerful undercurrents she senses between the two.

As the story gathers pace and the party moves towards its abrupt and tragic ending the loves and hopes of its members emerge and mingle, together with disturbing revelations about their pasts.

Flora Casement

The Dean's
December
By Saul Bellow

(Secker & Warburg, £7.95)

The Dean's December pivots round a university Dean fighting the totalitarian bureaucracy in Belgrade, while his mother-in-law dies, and the legal system in Chicago, while he presides for murder charges. The novel is split between the free West and the grimly bonded East. The events in Belgrade are etched with a stark and disturbing edge as we meet his wife's family, who are given a grandeur and a dignity against the repression and depression of the communist system. The Chicago story is looser and at times like eavesdropping on people one does not really know. At worst it is tediously repetitive. Bellow has taken too large a cast and is at his best when describing the claustrophobically close relationships in the East. Yet the Dean

himself brings a cohesion if not a tightness to the novel as he eventually discovers his isolation from the world (including his wife). But it has taken the two deaths to show him this.

Candido by Leonardo Sciascia (Corgi, £5.95) is a modern day version of *Candide*. Born in wartime Sicily, Candido becomes a "little monster" causing family break-ups and suicide. Life is seemingly simple for him as he tries to find a true path through life's contradictions and complications. Voltaire's choice between Manichaeism and Optimism is replaced by the alternatives: Communism and the Church, which become embodied in a communist ex-archbishop. Sciascia's canvas is a vast one; painted in a thrifty and light manner, amusing and fable-like, the simplicity and clarity of the genre does not belie a fundamental seriousness as he seeks out a path towards a belief in the twentieth century in general and Sicily in particular. His "dream, dreamed in Sicily" (the book's subtitle) is eventually found under Voltaire's statue in Paris where he discovers Truth. Candido is born of Candido but there is reborn into it a zest and relevance to today. Sciascia said "I have tried to be quick, to be light. But ours are heavy times." He has certainly lightened the load.

Walter Abish's *How German is it* (Carcanet, £5.95) revolves round the questioning mind of Ulrich Hargenau, a novelist. He is shadowed by his father's execution in 1944 for trying to kill Hitler, and by his recently testifying against his own fellow terrorists. His icy relationship with his brother, a successful architect in the New Germany and his brother's friends is the narrative framework, but the novel is more intricately bound by the contemporary philosophies of Ulrich's friend, who also taught Ulrich's girl-friend. For Abish has interspersed detached italicized comments

— (Could everything be different? What could she mean by that question?) — which distance, jolt, and disturb. Brumhold's central questions (what is being asked in this contemporary literary device. The correlation between narrative, thought, and style is tightly bound. Abish has cut through the deception and hypocrisy the characters and Nazi Germany's relationship to Germany present in hard and ruthless way. The novel's title question is given an honest and razor-sharp answer. The book was deservedly awarded the PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction.

Geordie Greig

Science fiction

Helliconia Spring
By Brian Aldiss

(Cape, £6.95)

O, to be in Fannoval now that Aldiss is there. And in Aldiss there. All inhuman life is there from the horned, yellow-blooded phagors, for ever the implacable enemies of the man-things, to the monstrous worms which figure in both legend and actuality. And it is the intermingling, for the inhabitants of this first-of-a-trilogy, of what is reality and what is allegory which gives it all its very special flavour.

This is an epic about an epoch, as we follow the career of Yuli, the savage, who quests for his lost father in a land illumined by shawls of light and who, after priesthood, goes on to found a city. From these origins emerge other characters involved in destinies which are at once alien and alike to our own. Mr Aldiss's acknowledgements reveal that experts helped him construct and give credibility to his universe. What, though, they

have not been able to give is his own unique vision which sees myth growing from material facts, a perception "like finding an animal's trail in the snow". Behind the forest of such names as Aoz Room and Slax T. which world-makers would seem required to bestow to convince us of strangeness, lurks a living core of real poetry. Connoisseurs of such sagas who don't read it may well be "high in the harnes". How's that again? Crazy.

Memoirs of a Space Traveller, by Stanislaw Lem (Secker and Warburg, £6.95). Irony entered the soul of the great Polish fabulist some time ago, never so apparent as in *The Star Diaries* to which this is a sequel. Lem keeps the flag of human morality flying in these tales, even though technology would seem to have scoured the universe of any need for it. Best story: The Washing Machine Tragedy, in which two manufacturers of such domestic implements, Newton and Snodgrass, compete to an ultimate degree which is also an ultimatum.

Three Worlds To Conquer, by Paul Anderson (Sidgwick and Jackson, £6.95). The veteran SF writer works his usual intriguing way with a vividly accelerating story of the fate of Jupiter, Ganymede and the life of a condemned man. Nightfall, by Christopher Fyke (Corgi, £1.50). Oddly obsessive narrative about a weakling boy who becomes a butterfly to wreak vengeance on those he supposes to be his enemies, his body itself finally becoming another kind of chrysalis. Nerve-scrambling stuff, though its wish-fulfilling atmosphere is, paradoxically, for its release in flight, too claustrophobic for my taste.

Dragonquest, by Anne McCaffrey (Corgi, £1.75). Fire lizards fly again. Anne McCaffrey's famed series continues though frankly I find one episode very like

another. When you've broken one queen egg you've broken them all; the yolk is, undoubtedly, on me for not being an addict.

God Emperor of Dune, by Frank Herbert (New English Library, £2.50). My end is as my beginning; an epic. And Book Four is Frank Herbert's remarkable Dune series. Its portrayal of ruler Leto Atreides. Symbiotically linked with the sandworm, is one of the really spectacular SF achievements in creating a different being whose self-acceptance for his race yet echoes an idealistic aspiration that one hopes is human as well.

Tom Hutchinson

Paperbacks

The Sicilian Vespers By Steven Runciman (Cambridge, £8.95)

On 30 March seven centuries ago, the bells in Palermo began to ring for Vespers, the Sicilians with knives drawn and crying "Death to the French!" poured through the streets cutting down every French man, woman, and child they could find. It is a long time ago, and, as our modern massacres go, it was quite a small one. The Sicilian Vespers today suggest little more than one of Verdi's lesser operas. Nevertheless they changed fundamentally the history of Christendom. More than three centuries later King Henry IV of France boasted to the Spanish ambassador the hum that he could do to the Spanish lands in Italy were the King of Spain to try his patience too far. "I will breakfast in Milan," he said, "and I will dine at Rome." "Then," replied the ambassador, "Your Majesty will be in Sicily in time for Vespers."

To commemorate the seven hundredth anniversary of the

event that changed the face of Europe, Cambridge today publishes the first paperback edition of Steven Runciman's famous book. It brings back to life the compulsive course of the whole Mediterranean world in the second half of the thirteenth century. It is a Who's Who (but not a less partial) to the Guelphs and Ghibellines, saints and sinners in Dante's *Divine Comedy*. It has a broad canvas, stretching from England to Palestine, and from Constantinople to Tunis.

It is the story of a vast conspiracy, plotted at Barcelona and Byzantium. It is the story of the brave, secretive Sicilian people rising against their foreign oppressors. It is the story of a brilliant prince undone by his arrogance. It is the story of the capture of that majestic conception of the Middle Ages - a universal papal monarchy - for which relief, much thanks. It is a marvellous story made vivid and intelligible by Runciman's scholarship, narrative power, and sympathetic understanding of the way men behave.

Philip Howard

The Politics of Change by William Rodgers is published by Secker & Warburg, not, as suggested last week, by Long Weidenfeld. In the next week Quinton on Mortimer Wheeler, Ratcliffe on Tenynson, and Chris Patten on Harold Macmillan.

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Eric Marsden in Johannesburg sums up the controversial tour

The rebel test that failed

South Africa's cricket officials are already quietly planning another "rebel" tour next season, but the tourists will be from more than one country and there will be greater emphasis on one-day games, with perhaps only one full "test" of four or five days. This has not been publicly stated but is the inference from reactions by senior administrators to the tour by Graham Gooch's "South African Breweries Eleven," which ended in anticlimax here on Monday.

Should the International Cricket Conference relent and implement its commissioners' proposal that a mixed international team should be sent to South Africa, all other plans would be gladly scrapped. But there is scant chance of this. Mr Joe Parnes, chairman of the South African Cricket Union, who is sending a report on the "positive results" of the English eleven's tour to Lords, will not speculate on future events except to repeat that SACU is known to be "innovative, inventive and resourceful." He said Gooch and his men had done much to foster the game in South Africa.

Mr Ahmed Mangera, president of the Transvaal Cricket Board, which is affiliated to the South African Council of Sport and rejects normal sport until there is a "normal society," claims that dwindling attendances proved that people were losing interest in such "gimmicks" and that if the rumoured tour including Australian Test stars becomes a reality the result would be the same.

The tour undoubtedly failed to pay its way, but the breweries had agreed in advance to foot the bill. Grounds were crowded for the three one-day matches, all won by South Africa, but were less than half-full for the four-day "Tests," two of which were tame draws. Debate is raging over whether this was due to the exaggerated importance



Amiss and Underwood meet young South African fans in Johannesburg

given them by radio and television: there was a ball-by-ball commentary on the six "internationals" and day-long television at first, until it became obvious that attendances were being affected.

Some say that the saturation coverage helped revive flagging interest in cricket, especially among schoolboys, and point out that gates did not improve on Sundays when Calvinist authority ruled out any coverage. But Sunday is traditionally reserved for barbecues and garden frolics, and a surprising number of people go to church.

Most likely the public sensed that the true Test atmosphere was missing, as it was with the Kerry Packer series.

On the field the tour at first boosted and then shat-

tered South African illusions that after 12 years of isolation they are still world-beaters and the survivors of their 1970 team are as good as ever. In the first one-day match, which provided the best cricket of the month, the South Africans passed the 240 set them for the loss of three wickets and with overs in hand, with Barry Richards and Graeme Pollock sharing batting honours with new boy Jimmy Cook, and Mike Procter winning the bowling prize. Richards and Pollock were again in mastery form in the first four-day "Test," which South Africa won comfortably.

But as the pressure increased, with only a day's rest between games, they were shown to be ordinary mortals. Richards, though stylish as ever, is no longer a relentless destroyer of open-

ing attacks. Pollock, revered here as "the Prince of Batsmen" or "The Great Man," proved vulnerable outside the off stump in his last three innings. Procter was unable to bowl in the big games and sadly gave up the captaincy because of his knee injury. Clive Rice could not bowl because of neck trouble. Cook and Peter Kirsten were the most consistent South African batsmen and Vincent van der Bijl emerged as the team's only world-class bowler. The guest South African bowler, van der Bijl, who holds nearly every South African bowling record, took 18 wickets in the three major games.

The South Africans have realized that they have to rebuild and cannot afford to lose any more players such as Kepler Wessels, now an Australian, and Allan Lamb,

who hopes to play for England this year. As Bader, the 1970 Springbok captain who is convalescing from selectors, is urging that young cricketers should be offered full-time professional contracts to stop the drain.

Before the tour Graham Gooch was little known here (though he played club cricket in the Cape five years ago), and regarded as a second junior partner. He hit two centuries and his buccant style electrified crowds. Amiss's classical correctness aroused nostalgia but Boycott was a disappointment. So was Bob Woolmer until his 100 on the final day. The best bowler was the uncapped Les Taylor, who partnered Van der Bijl for Natal this season. The others were steady but lacked penetration, and John Embury's early loss through injury was a severe blow.

The tourists improved as the series went on and were unlucky not to have won the last two matches. Despite a lack of back-up organization and a schedule which left only one day between games, usually for travelling, they took the strain better than the South Africans, who normally play only eight four-day matches over five months, interspersed with one-day knock-out contests.

If the three-year ban is not lifted, Gooch and most of the others will be back here next season.

There is sadness that the bitterness the tour has aroused has led to the withdrawal of invitations to Procter, Pollock and Eddie Barlow to play at the Oval for the Rest of the World against "Old England" for the Ken Barrington Memorial Fund.

It is apparently feared they might embarrass Sir Garfield Sobers and the other West Indians. But these three have been consistent campaigners against Apartheid in sport, especially Barlow, who has stood for parliament on an anti-Apartheid platform.

A new national service: the way to find a million jobs

by Ian Bradley

Recent opinion polls suggest that a nationwide community service scheme for young people commands the support of a clear majority of the population. Nearly all the letters received and published by *The Times* followed a leading article entitled "Your Country Needs You" on February 27 have also been favourable. Serious doubts persist, however, about how such a scheme could be implemented. Can enough jobs be found in the community for young people to do? How would such a scheme be organized and what would it cost? In short, is it really a practical proposition rather than an idealistic dream?

There has been a surprising amount of detailed research over the last ten years into the practicalities of launching and running a national scheme in which all school-leavers would spend a period of a year or so in work of benefit to the community. Those involved in the research have in general been optimistic about the chances of successfully introducing into this country something which is already going on in several other European nations where a period of social service is permitted and encouraged as an alternative to military service.

In West Germany, for example, where there is compulsory national service for 18-year-olds, only 65 per cent of those eligible actually serve in the armed forces. About 30,000 a year opt for a 16-month period of civilian service which involves working in hospitals, among the elderly and in conservation. Other smaller groups are involved in voluntary service overseas and in the technical aid service which provides swift assistance in major disasters and emergencies. These services are organized by the federal government.

Finding jobs to be done is probably the least difficult task in setting up a national community service scheme. A report entitled *Half a Million Pairs of Hands*, commissioned in 1970 by Community Service Volunteers, the organization which already places over 2,000 young people a year in community service projects, demonstrated that it would be feasible to generate 500,000 opportunities in hospitals, schools, museums and in the care of the elderly and the handicapped.

A more recent and more detailed study by Enrico Colombatto of the London School of Economics (*Nationwide Social Service: A Proposal for the 1980s*) goes much further and suggests that between 847,000 and 1,768,000 jobs could be found, easily providing opportunities for all the 900,000 or so young people who leave school every year.

One of the main areas which Colombatto identified as providing job opportunities was in the care of the growing number of old people. Age Concern, the largest organization dealing with the elderly in Britain, has said that it could create as many as 500,000 full-time placements for young people under a nationwide community service scheme. Their jobs would range from helping with the Meals-on-Wheels service to visiting, gardening and shopping.

Other areas which could provide a significant number of opportunities are personal social services and education. It has been suggested, for example, that one or more young people could be attached to every nursery, primary and special school teacher to help in the

classroom. There is also obviously enormous scope for jobs in the general field of conservation and environmental improvement, both in rural areas and in the inner cities, where large numbers of young people could be used to rehabilitate derelict buildings and create playgrounds and parks.

Much of the organization and administration of a national community service scheme could be left in the hands of local agencies, both statutory and voluntary. It would seem sensible, for example, for local social services and education departments to supervise placements in the institutions and schools which they run. The voluntary help organisers now attached to most hospitals would be well placed to organise those working in the health service.

Environmental projects could be run by voluntary agencies like the National Trust and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, which has estimated that, with adequate funding, it could create work amounting to 100,000 man months each year. Jobs in the field of inner-city rehabilitation could be organized by local authorities and by voluntary and community groups.

Such central direction and management of a nationwide community service scheme as was needed could be provided by a national agency, perhaps the existing Manpower Services Commission (MSC) which is already increasingly

involved in the community service field, particularly after the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement in the Budget of new initiatives to involve the long-term unemployed in socially useful work.

An added advantage of involving the MSC in the management of the scheme is that it would provide close integration with existing provision for young people in terms of further education and training. Critics of the idea of a year of national social service are often worried that it would be seen as an alternative to the Government's recently announced training initiative and as a substitute for job preparation and learning skills.

Rather, a period of community service should be complementary and additional to other forms of preparation for adult life. Its protagonists would also argue that, in an emerging post-industrial society which is unlikely ever again to provide "work" for all in the conventional sense of that term, it could provide much more relevant to young people's needs than further education or training for specific jobs.

The cost of the scheme obviously depends very much

on what those taking part in it would be paid. On the basis of a weekly allowance of £13 with food and lodging, where necessary, provided free, Colombatto calculates that the total cost per placement per year would be £1,288.72. Using a slightly different method of calculation, and assuming a weekly allowance of £15, Youth Call, a pressure group advocating the adoption of a nationwide community service scheme, has suggested that the cost of placing 100,000 young people for a nine-month period would be just under £100m.

By comparison, it is worth noting that the cost to the state of each unemployed young person is over £3,000 a year and that last year the MSC's Youth Opportunities Programme placed 360,000 in work experience and community projects of between four and six months at a total cost of £215m.

Almost certainly the most difficult obstacle to be overcome in setting up a nationwide community service scheme would be the opposition of those who see the scheme as a time of high unemployment and cutbacks in public spending. It is not surprising that public sector unions in particular might regard such a scheme, particularly if introduced by the present Government, as a way of getting labour on the case.

It is a great pity that the argument in favour of nationwide community service has been put forward at a time of very high unemployment. The justification for the one is not the existence of the other. However appealing it may be to politicians, the temporary removal of large numbers of young people from the labour market, and therefore from the unemployment statistics, would be essentially only a by-product of national community service and not its main purpose or benefit.

In fact, many long-term jobs would be created as a direct result of the introduction of such a scheme. Supervisors and managers would be needed, including skilled builders and craftsmen, to lead the teams of young people working on inner-city rehabilitation. That particular area of work would also give a much-needed boost to the construction industry.

Ultimately, it is imagination and will that are required to turn the idea of national community service into a reality. One of the first actions of Franklin Roosevelt when he became President of the USA in 1933 in the midst of the worst depression this century was to set up the Civilian Conservation Corps. The corps grew from over a quarter of a million in three months, was responsible, among many other things, for planting two billion trees covering 21 million acres, more than half the area now under forest in the United States. Nearly 40 million acres of farmland were saved from erosion. Surely it is not beyond the resources of Great Britain 50 years later to put the energy and enthusiasm of our young people to work to save our inner cities from decay and death?

The author is a member of the Youth Call working party.

Where the young would work

In care of the elderly	250,000
In hospitals & health care	35,000
In education	250,000
In environmental conservation	52,000
In conservation in urban areas	203,000
Skills development	37,100
Total jobs	847,100

Source: minimum figures in Enrico Colombatto's LSE discussion paper.

Who pays for the blues in the night?

To judge from his speech in the law and order debate last Thursday, Mr Roy Hattersley either did not read or forgot the following astonishing article (*March 18*) explaining the rationale case for the publication by the Metropolitan Police of violent crime statistics showing the proportions of black and white offenders, or he failed to be convinced by its impeccable logic.

At all events, there he was again, fatalistically stressing (though of course not condoning) unemployment as a cause of this kind of crime in the following amazing sentences: "If I were a young black teenager living in a decaying central area, anticipating unemployment and watching the reduction in the social services and the humiliations heaped upon me by the Government's British Nationality Act, 1981, and other matters, I would be tempted in those ways."

In which ways precisely, we may ask. Would Mr Hattersley in any circumstances be tempted, say, to strike down an old lady, kick her in the head, break a few bones and take her virtually empty purse? I like to think not. What he ignores is the extent to which this kind of mugging is itself racist. Politicians rightly repeat that racial violence must not be tolerated and what they usually have in mind is the despicable violence by thugs and skinheads against coloured people, usually peaceful Asians.

They are, however, usually silent about the racial element in the violent assault, with theft, of blacks on whites.

Nevertheless, it is part of the stock-in-trade of Mr Hattersley and the like-

minded that collecting racial statistics must be wrong. Now, then, do they react to the following astonishing story?

A few weeks ago, Lambeth Council submitted to the Greater London Council, as the entertainment licensing authority, an application for parties to be held in the Town Hall's Assembly Hall until 4 am. The object was to reduce the number of noisy parties held by blacks elsewhere in the borough which was causing distress, particularly to white people.

The application was not opposed by the police because they felt it unwise to do so, post-Scarman, on political grounds. However, the application was resisted by the matron and inmates of an old people's home hard by the Town Hall. They accepted as inevitable noisy parties until midnight, but the prospect that these could continue until 4 am was enough to drive to despair people who already felt unsafe and forgotten.

Nevertheless, the licensing panel decided, on a balance of considerations, to allow parties until 4 am on two nights a week, though not every night as requested.

It was, in itself, an interesting enough decision but far more significant is a report headed "Noise Statistics and the Racial Dimension" which was submitted in connection with the case by the Lambeth Director of Environmental Health and Consumer Services in consultation with the Principal Race Relations Adviser.

The report began by stating the Council's policy of dealing quickly with noise complaints which, after investigation, can be met by summonses under the Con-

Ronald Butt

trol of Pollution Act, 1974. "In recent years the number of complaints of unacceptable noise levels has risen sharply."

On June 19, 1980, the Health and Consumer Services Committee had therefore received a report entitled "Race Relations Positive Action Programme in Health and Consumer Services" which stated that "noise nuisance was a potential cause for conflict with a clear racial dimension which could not be overlooked. This was particularly true of 'blues' parties which had a commercial element, were well organized and moved from place to place to avoid prosecution."

Subsequently, "racial data was (sic) gathered for a four-month period in relation to noise complainants during the period from Nov 22, 1980, to Oct 31, 1981. There was a high number of unknowns. 'What is significant, however, is the continuing trend of high numbers of white complainants and even higher number of black offenders.'"

The figures compiled for Lambeth area offenders: Black 216, White 57, Black/White 16, Not Known 657. Complainants: Black 22, White 200, Black/White 8, Not Known 716.

Among the reasons suggested for these statistics are that "some black people have cultural attitudes to noise and 'authority' which makes (sic) them more tolerant of and less likely to complain about noise than white people", and that some in the black community have "an unmet need for sound-insulated facilities", in the absence of which "social activities will be curtailed by statutory enforcement."

The report suggests as possible explanations of these points the fact that whereas white-run parties often celebrate such family occasions as weddings and birthdays, black parties are

often large community affairs.

"It is generally held that the enjoyment of loud, low beat music is a cultural one within the black community... Some of the most persistent noise nuisances referred to the Weekend Emergency Service comes from the blues party category."

The report then states that though the statistics may be accounted for by the fact that the enjoyment and tolerance of noise are cultural, "the racial dimension is equally important."

"If the problem of noise is not tackled consistently, then a racial dimension to noise in terms of black/white discord could develop. This racial dimension to some extent exists only statistically, but when combined with recent social unrest it could escalate."

"The provision of adequately sound-insulated accommodation so sited as to give least nuisance from party-leavers with all-night use with minimum restrictions should be considered as a method of tackling this problem."

"I leave everyone to reach his own conclusions on this extraordinary report, contenting myself with these questions: Who pays? What proportion of a borough's population must be black for it to qualify for sound-insulated halls out of the public purse? What, if despite such premises, noise from unsolicited private premises persisted?"

Most important of all, if it is all right for Labour Lambeth Council to collect, analyse and gloss noise nuisance statistics on a racial basis, why may the police not do the same for mugging?

Eisenstein: the film they can never show

Michell Raper unfolds a fascinating story in his Radio 4 programme *A Missing Masterpiece*? This morning, it explains how G. K. Chesterton, George Bernard Shaw and take that, right, right, volunteered as extras for a reenactment of the Odessa steps sequence for Sergei Eisenstein's *Battleship Potemkin*.

It happened, says Raper, during Eisenstein's visit to London en route to Hollywood in the 1930s. The Russian genius was lionized on the London cocktail circuit, but when complimented on the Odessa steps sequence he dismissed it as a "kropnik" — a botched job.

Thus the idea was conceived of shooting the sequence again at a suitable London locale: the steps of the Albert Memorial. The presence of so many celebrities when filming began is attributed to Leiden-Smith, a shady figure on the fringes of the artistic world who subsequently edited some of the London shots into one print of *Potemkin* which may, for all anyone knows, still be doing the round of the film clubs.

It is recorded that Shaw wore his usual knickerbockers for his headlong rush up the steps, and that Chesterton, wearing pince-nez, had the misfortune to slip on a dog dropping, thus providing a most life-like performance as a

falling martyr. Thereafter those who had worked with the Russian director in London would greet each other with a rapid shuffle of the feet and the murmured Russian words: "Aprelskiy dukak."

Pet hates

Interpet, the Dorking company which has been chosen for the British Pet Industry Association's first award for outstanding contributions to the pet industry, has appropriately chosen this moment to announce an addition to its product range.

Paratox combats parasitic and protozoan infections such as flukes, anchor worms, fish lice, white spot, leeches and hydra. It does not affect pH, will not interrupt nitrification and is generally safe for use in the home aquarium. The company does warn, though, that the product is hard on plants and invertebrates and should be used with caution in the presence of marine sharks, lionfish, and freshwater piranhas.

Aylesbury Vale district council's bulletin of planning applications received last week lists one for Aston Clinton: a private effluent pipeline at Dropshot Farm.

Out of the closet

Posters in the Victoria & Albert Museum inform me of a crackpot scheme at the Boilerhouse Project. To celebrate the centenary of the water closet, the

THE TIMES DIARY



The Army's magazine *Soldier* has surprised many with its ready acceptance of the decentralization of seven British Regiments.

Phlegmatically the current issue reports that famous names are to be changed with immediate effect, to please our Continental allies.

Thus in the name of metrication the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) are henceforth referred to as the 0.75 Royal

Lancers. The 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) are calculated to become the 0.72 recurring Royal Hussars, and the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers emerge as the 3.2 Royal Lancers.

Such a surrender to the Continental system is bound to cause a ruffle in the country's military pride but, we are assured, it has the wholehearted approval of Nato's International Army Personnel Register, which is supposed to think the new arrangements much more businesslike.

Boilerhouse announces a series of exhibitions, beginning with sanitary ware from the Royal Collection. Appropriately, any inevitably, the show is called *Royal Flush*.

Others advertised for the future include *Closet Queen* which reveals Queen Victoria's sketches, designs and diaries concerning the WC; and *The Perfumed Garden*, devoted to the rustic renaissance of the out-house. The one I suspect I should find most amusing is *Shut that Door!* — an exposure of Sweden's brief experiment with open-plan public lavatories.

Yet I am bound to ask — as I expect the museum administrators will when they complete their cogitations this morning and realize what day it is — should taxpayers' money be flushed down the wastepipe so generously on these weird excretions?

roman a clef in which Forster speculates with malicious glee on the anxiety which would spread through the couple's extensive circle if their unlikely relationship were discovered.

Trunk roads?

Friends of the Earth, Britain's leading conservationists, have sent a message of congratulation to David Howell, the Transport Minister, congratulating him on his success with the greening of cities. The "disintegration" of Britain's roads is proceeding so well, the organization says, that popular garden flowers and bushes are establishing themselves in the remains of the tarmac and burrowing animals are colonizing the potholes.

This morning FOE will take reporters and photographers on a guided tour of a nature reserve established in Hopkins Street in the middle of Soho. The pothole there, they promise, is big enough already to accommodate primroses, rabbits, moles and badgers, and they are thinking of planting a few trees.

Caterer and Hotelkeeper draws my attention to the arrival in Britain of "the biggest breakthrough in food service since the invention of fire." It is the pill meal, launched by a chain called Meal Appeal which, the magazine says, has perfected a vast range of meals in lozenge form.

The company's founder and

And, of course, there'll have to be a special clause excluding the House of Commons...



president, Patrick K. Hudvincz, is quoted as saying that when he hit upon the idea "the benefits flashed up in my mind like neon dollar signs — no dish-washing, no gristle and none of that horrible mess all over the plate after you've finished the meal!"

Little is known about the Meal Appeal technology, but it is claimed that the structure of each pill is defined by a special computer programme, so that taste and texture sensations are released in the correct sequence.

Estimates are that a full five-course Meal Appeal Christmas dinner complex with turkey, pudding and liqueur lozenges can be consumed in six and a half minutes, or three and a half if

diners prefer to crunch their tablets.

Holography is used to configure up a more complete picture of the meal, and robots provide service. The listed attractions also include an authentic Persian night out with *causing minceur* option.

Pinka pinta

A confidential report of the officers of Burntwood town council has been sent to me. It reveals plans to make the schools in Burntwood, in the Midlands, testing ground for coloured milk at the behest of the EEC.

The purpose of the experiment would be to test children's reactions. The colours suggested are pink, peach, lemon, lime, blue, lavender and coffee, but normal uncoloured milk will also be available on selected days.

Because of stringent EEC regulations about food additives, the report says it will be necessary to provide local farmers with fodder impregnated with concentrated food colouring, so that the milk is coloured naturally.

The report envisages that the cattle feed will be impregnated with primary colours, and the pastel shades required for the children's milk produced by mixing the feed.

In view of the date, PHS offers its personal guarantee that every statement in this Diary is true, but do be careful today about what you believe from other sources.

WE D

The South seems to be a Falkland may be that planned for pose by the ment. If government have played hands it is probably g But it is g nable.

The action salvage mer British auth ken (whose had been to Embassy in they would landing on and then Argentine f be interpreted provocation. necessarily Argentina, a or colonise S

The officia was confined some equip salvage party time naval ve itself an ac Only when i that Britain h Endurance f Argentine f announce the vessel, the B

Airlines su From Mr K E Sir, You gave (March 24) to Passengers g BA" from res the Internatio Berr Associatio May I suggest this survey less — 40,000 100,000 membe rate is 17.5 replies are li unrepresentati and your co yours faithfully K. E. MANN, Overseas Mark 77 George Street Portman Squar



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234.

SPREADING GERMANY'S WINGS

There are two main threats to western Europe. One is posed by the vast array of Soviet weaponry looming over its eastern frontiers. The other is the threat of social instability provoked by recession and unemployment, and perhaps aggravated by opposition to nuclear weapons. The two threats are linked in so far as there is no point in trying to defend ourselves against the Russians if we cannot sustain political and economic structures that are worth defending and capable of producing the wealth to pay for defence.

This week's European summit sensibly addressed itself to both threats but fell some way short of generating the momentum necessary to deal with them. Neither its words on unemployment (now roughly ten million) nor its complaints about high interest rates (no mention of Mr Reagan as the culprit) and still less its rather tentative talk of "further consultation" with Washington, did justice to the need for a much more coherent and forceful European contribution to the joint problems of the alliance.

If this is to develop in time for the Versailles summit meeting in June, a lot of responsibility is going to fall on West Germany. It is the European country most exposed to the military threat and most worried by the effects of economic stress on its society. This worry often seems exaggerated to its neighbours, who see a democracy in pretty good working order and an economy capable of dealing with a fair amount of trouble, but the fact that the Germans are starting to feel uneasy and insecure is, whether justified or not, a political reality that the alliance must take into account.

The first thing it needs to do is to listen more closely to what Herr Genscher, the Foreign Minister, has been saying recently about the need for Europe to put aside bickering and develop a stronger voice on major political issues. The next thing is to look more closely at the contribution which West Germany can make to the alliance. It is still understandably inhibited by its past — or by the lingering suspicions of its neighbours — from reaching too obviously for the leadership of Europe, but that is not the main issue or the best way of looking at the problem.

The stress which West Germany now feels has been made worse by pressure from Washington and Paris to choose between its eastern and western relations. Washington has wanted West Germany to line up with more confrontational and even

punitive policies towards the Warsaw Pact. The French have begun to plague themselves with worries that West Germany could slide into its own version of Gaullism, making private arrangements with Moscow to the detriment of the alliance. This is one of the reasons why they are pressing for more European cooperation on defence. In the sixties and seventies they could flaunt their independence and make their own advances to Moscow because they felt securely protected behind West Germany. Now they feel less sure of their ally.

These fears are exaggerated, but it is true that the West Germans have been made restive by the fact that the alliance is no longer united behind the concept of détente which they have faithfully pursued for more than a decade — that is, military balance combined with a widening of political, commercial, cultural and personal contacts. As they frequently point out, it is not they who have changed but the Americans.

This is a problem not just for West Germany but for the alliance since West Germany is the strongest and the most vulnerable power in Europe, and a vital cornerstone of the alliance. It also happens to exemplify the European dilemma of being wholly dependent for its security on the United States without having sufficient influence over American decisions. It is not drifting into marginality, but it could drift into still greater disaffection with the alliance if its own interests are insufficiently respected, or seen as in conflict with those of its allies.

The immediate key to the problem is to see that the conflict is in fact illusory. West Germany's eastern policies are not a liability but an asset to the alliance. They have opened up eastern Europe to western influence, contributed to an amelioration of conditions in eastern Europe, and given the states of eastern Europe a stake in détente which the Russians cannot wholly ignore. During this period, too, the ideological appeal of the Soviet Union to western opinion has sunk to its lowest ebb since 1917. All this has contributed significantly to the security of western Europe and has not led to any diminution of the West German defence effort, which continued to increase even when American defence spending was dropping.

It would help nobody, except possibly the Russians, if all this work were abandoned and the iron curtain allowed to descend again across cen-

tral Europe. Yet this difficult balance of military preparedness with political openness is difficult for some members of the present American administration to comprehend. They see it as weakening their global confrontation with the Soviet Union. In fact it does nothing of the sort except in the difficult area of punitive sanctions. It has been difficult for the West Germans to find ways of registering disapproval of Soviet actions in Afghanistan and Poland, for instance, without putting at risk some of the gains of détente, though they were among the few to keep their athletes away from the Moscow Olympics.

This is a dilemma which cannot be wholly resolved. It can, however, be ameliorated. Firstly, the alliance must accept that West Germany's eastern relations are not only a vital German interest but also an alliance interest. Any attempt to force West Germany to sever them would be doomed to failure and damaging to the alliance. This will remain true even if there is a change of German government in West Germany. The Christian Democrats make great play with promises of greater devotion to the alliance but in power they would find German interests unchanged. Therefore the alliance should come to accept that when sanctions are called for the West German contribution to them will be less than that of some other states. This is a reasonable price to pay for larger dividends that the alliance gains from German policies. It is also a reinsurance against German disaffection with the alliance.

To compensate, however, the West Germans need to widen their view and show more understanding for America's global problems. If they are to represent the interests of the alliance in Europe they must recognize that the United States is representing their interests and defending their security around the globe. Among other things they should be ready to commit troops for operations outside the NATO area. This would impress American opinion and buy more needed influence over the way in which the force is used. They have constitutional problems here (German forces are bound to a defensive role) but these could be overcome. They also have political problems which are more intractable. But this is the sort of direction in which the West Germans should be looking if they are to win wholehearted alliance support for their valuable role in Europe.

WE DON'T HAVE THE SHIPS BUT BY JINGO...

The South Georgia incident seems to have developed into a Falkland Islands crisis. It may be that the incident was planned for that precise purpose by the Argentine government. If so, the British government could be said to have played into Argentina's hands. If not, the crisis is probably quite unnecessary. But it is not yet unmanageable.

The action of the Argentine salvage men, in ignoring the British authorities at Grytviken (whose permission they had been told by the British Embassy in Buenos Aires they would require for a landing on South Georgia) and then in raising the Argentine flag, could hardly be interpreted as other than a provocation. But it did not necessarily have to be interpreted as an attempt by Argentina, as a state, to seize or colonise South Georgia.

The official Argentine role was confined to the landing of some equipment for the salvage party from an Argentine naval vessel — hardly in itself an act of aggression. Only when it became known that Britain had diverted HMS Endurance to the area did the Argentine foreign minister announce that another naval vessel, the Bahia Paraiso, had

been sent there and was standing by to protect Argentine citizens.

With hindsight it can be asked whether the British government was wise to dramatise the incident by diverting the Endurance in this way, and whether it would not have been more statesmanlike simply to ignore the rather insignificant infringement of British sovereignty represented by twelve civilians and one flag on a remote and uninhabited stretch of coastline. Their presence was hardly likely to become permanent, and if they left their flag behind them a party could always have been sent from Grytviken to replace it with the Union Jack. Such a venture would perhaps provide a welcome relief from what one imagines as the somewhat monotonous way of life of the British Antarctic Survey station.

But matters have gone beyond that point now. Argentina's rulers, beset with economic and political difficulties at home, have leapt at the chance to stage an external confrontation on an issue which unites the Argentine population — at least in the sense that there seems to be only one Argentine opinion

about the rightful sovereignty of the "Malvinas", though there are, no doubt, more than one about the degree of priority the issue deserves, and indeed the proper tactics for handling it. In Britain too, and especially on the Conservative back benches, a somewhat jingoistic note is being struck. The Government cannot afford to appear to be backing down in face of a threat to British sovereignty in the Falkland Islands; and indeed it would be wrong to give Argentina the impression that any sudden *Anschluss* would go unopposed.

The Government is rightly insisting publicly on its desire for a solution by strengthening its diplomatic position by giving semi-private hints that British warships, even a nuclear-powered submarine, are on their way. It is hardly likely that the navy could spare such a vessel for permanent garrison duty in the South Atlantic, while to proclaim publicly that it was being sent would be an escalation of the crisis and make it more difficult for the Argentines to back down without losing face. But it makes very good sense to give them the idea that it is somewhere around, and could be used if they overplay their hand.

Airlines survey

From Mr K.E. Mann
Sir, You gave considerable space (March 24) to a report headed "Passengers give thumbs down to BA" from results of a survey by the International Airline Passenger Association.
May I suggest that the results of this survey are almost worthless — 40,000 of the association's 100,000 members were contacted and 7,000 replied. This response rate is 17.5 per cent and the replies are likely to be very unrepresentative and misleading and your conclusions totally erroneous.
Yours faithfully,
K.E. MANN
Overseas Market Facts,
77 George Street,
Portman Square, W1.

Identity in question

From Mr A.L. Macfarlane
Sir, The difficulty of identifying participants lies at the centre of the controversy over the recent disturbance at Wormwood Scrubs Prison (report February 25). As far as we are aware no change of procedure has been instituted to overcome similar difficulties in the future.
Uniformed prison staff, unlike police officers, wear no identifying marks other than those signifying rank. It is misleading to suggest, therefore, that the difficulties arising out of the incident at Wormwood Scrubs resulted from the use of riot equipment. Prison staff are not ordinarily identifiable unless personally known to the prisoner

and given the practice of bringing in staff from other establishments, this is seldom the case during major disturbances.

My association recommends that all prison staff, uniformed and civilian, should routinely wear a badge identifying their name and rank. This would protect the interests of staff and prisoners and enhance the policy of accountability of the service emphasized by successive Home Secretaries.
Yours faithfully,
A.L. MACFARLANE, Chairman,
Association of Members of
Bodies of Visitors,
18/19 Monmouth Place,
Bath,
Avon
March 24.

Political control and the police

From Mrs M. B. Simey
Sir, Mr Mottram's letter (March 27) serves a useful purpose in ensuring that the dominant party in the constitution of police authorities which is of increasing significance. He is, however, less than fair to the authority of which I have the honour to be chairman when he states that the practice of ensuring that the dominant party has an overall majority originated with the local Labour group.
In fact, we simply followed a practice which is, contrary to Mr Mottram's belief, common among the country Police authorities. In fact, little choice in the matter. If the leading party is to exercise its responsibilities it is essential that it retains a majority over the opposition and magistrates combined.

As for the comments of various correspondents who discuss political accountability, I can only express yet again my conviction that it is the absence of the political dimension from the administration of policing as a public service, rather than its presence, which has given rise to the present lamentable decline in public support.

Accountability is essentially a political process since it is means whereby a public service submits to the scrutiny of those whom it is designed to serve. To demand to be excused from that obligation is to deny the very basis of voluntary consent on which not only our system of policing but democratic government itself depends.

The proper safeguard against the exercise of improper political interference is not to ban politics from policing but to ensure that a balanced system of checks and balances already exists but is seldom invoked, is brought into effective operation. The presence of magistrates on the authority makes no contribution to this system.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET SIMEY,
Merseyside County Council,
P.O. Box 95,
Mersey House,
Old Hall Street,
Liverpool,
March 29.

From Detective Chief Inspector J. A. McStravick
Sir, I write as a Metropolitan Police CID officer to protest at the comment by your Crime Reporter in the article of March 23, headed "Sweden squads inquiries were beset by problems", i.e. "There are those who believe that the failures of Countryman will mean that corruption continues to thrive in London despite more than 100 CIB (Complaints Investigation Bureau) detectives".

Perhaps there are those who believe this, but there are those who believe no such thing, so why not give these a mention too? Who are the people that believe that corruption continues to thrive and is their opinion a justification for such a sweeping statement?
An experienced crime reporter will know that nearly all major criminal inquiries are beset with problems. It is to be expected that some journalists, no doubt stimulated by the unusual action of a senior officer being interviewed on a TV programme and forecasting the result of a complex criminal investigation, long before its completion, to develop a sense of near hysteria over the inquiry, unfortunately codenamed "Countryman", and are now unwilling, in the aftermath of the trial of some junior detectives, to accept the verdict of the courts. Is the campaign against the Metropolitan Police CID to go on for ever?

I am proud to be a detective, and like my colleagues am jealous of the reputation of the Metropolitan Police. Your readers may be assured that if any of us has reason to think that one of our number is behaving criminally, we know what to do and we will not hesitate to give evidence. Perhaps your reporter has noticed several cases in the past few years investigated by us, persons unfit to be police officers being convicted and sentenced to imprisonment.
Yours faithfully,
J. A. McSTRAVICK,
Detective Chief Inspector,
New Scotland Yard, SW1.

From Mr R. Peter Wassell
Sir, Your correspondent (March 24) objecting to the distinction between police officers and civilians is a bit naive or disingenuous. The police themselves make the distinction. For instance (a routine example) the annual reports of chief constables nearly always have a paragraph about "civilian staff".
Yours faithfully,
R. PETER WASELL,
Lecturer in Public Affairs,
University of Edinburgh,
Extra-Mural Studies,
11 Buccleuch Place,
Edinburgh.

Mental Health Bill

From Mr Michael Meacher, MP for Oldham, West (Labour)
Sir, The choice of membership of the Standing Committee of the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, which meets for the first time on Tuesday (March 30), reveals an extraordinary selection process by the Government Whips.
It is custom and practice in the Commons that membership of Bill-committees is selected, not totally but very largely, from those members who spoke on its second reading. In the case of the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, which received its second reading a week ago, seven Tories spoke from the backbenches, all of them with a particular knowledge of and commitment to the

The middle course in UK politics

From Lord Lansdowne
Sir, Your leading article of March 27 in which you welcome, as I do, the return of Mr Roy Jenkins to "the Commons where he belongs", seems to me to make an important false assumption. Is it not possible that British politics are moving away from what you call a "basically adversarial culture"?
Certainly, responsibility in politics is about choice. Certainly the electorate and the leaders it puts in office have to choose and be seen to have chosen, but must their choice be the country so violently from one set of beliefs to another?

Centrism, which presumably means the middle course between two extremes, is surely not the only alternative to those extremes. I welcome the SDP trend in political fashion (its policies are yet to be fully revealed) and although I remain a convinced supporter of the Conservative Party, I do believe in proportional representation. I see advantages in an "intermediate series of coalitions" and I favour circular Chambers for the two Houses of Parliament. In the House of Lords there are, of course, the well-filled and powerful cross benches.

Yours faithfully,
LANSDOWNE,
Meidourne,
Perth,
March 27.

From Mr Matthew Oakshott
Sir, Your coverage of the Hillhead election result on Saturday included a characteristically thorough and professional analysis by Ivor Crewe. Your readers are, however, left trying to solve the mystery of the missing headline, because your "Good for Labour, better for Labour" had little to do with the article.

The extraordinary view of Hillhead as a good result for Labour clearly does not fool those in the best position to know. Speaking out with the passion and clarity which is an infallible sign of Labour modernisation, your position under mortal threat, the Hattersleys and Healeys have got it right. Roy Hattersley's experience in Hillhead was apparently that Labour voters were deeply concerned about the Marxist state, the Militant Tendency, the "hard left" and Tony Benn. My experience from the SDP side of six days canvassing in the hitherto Labour areas of Scotstoun and Partick West was identical.

Whatever sophistry is employed, for whatever motive, to pretend that Hillhead was a good result for Labour, the facts are that this was a marginal seat where the Labour performance had been improving steadily at successive general elections. A vigorous campaign was waged by

British interest in S Atlantic

From Mr R. J. Rowlands
Sir, The latest fiasco in South Georgia with Argentina must surely commit the Foreign Office to a more positive attitude in this area than the dubious statements made continually in both Houses of Parliament.
The Falklands and its inhabitants can be nothing more than nuisance value to the Foreign Office, but history has shown their value in times of conflict and they may have more to offer Britain in the future, with the possibility of fish, oil and other minerals, a year-round gateway to Antarctica with its possible coalfields, copper mountains, oil and other wealth when commercial exploitation begins; also a suitable base to observe Russian submarine and other activities in the strategic Cape Horn sea route.
Finally, Argentina is not going to stop with its claims to the Falklands. It does not recognize British Antarctic territory either so there is a lot more than the future of 1,800 Falklanders at stake.
Yours faithfully,
ROBERT J. ROWLANDS,
32 Walsley Road,
Shirley,
Southampton,
March 29.

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall, North (Labour)
Sir, I was interested to see that in the interview in *The Times* on Tuesday the Liberal leader said it was a caricature to suggest that the SDP was a left-of-centre party with the Liberals pulling the social democrats to the right. If anything it was the other way round, he added.

It has never taken the politician defectors from the Labour Party very long to move much further to the right than the public stance they previously took; the defectors of 1931 were, as we know, virtually indistinguishable shortly afterwards from the Tories and Liberals they then joined in government.

One can certainly understand the enthusiasm which seems to be found in boardrooms and similar places for the SDP; this new political organization is hardly likely to start challenging the inequalities and deprivation of our society.
Yours etc.,
DAVID WINNICK,
House of Commons.

From Mr Alexander Pickering
Sir, Mr Michael rightly suggests (March 30) a much higher deposit for parliamentary candidates, but may I suggest that this should be accompanied by a much lower qualifying percentage; five per cent does not seem too low since a candidate achieving this is clearly being taken seriously by a significant minority.

It is absurd to place a Scottish nationalist candidate with 11.3 per cent of the votes cast in the same category as the jokers and eccentrics.
Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PICKERING,
38 Oakwood Road, NW11,
March 30.

Ulster Assembly plan

From Professor Bernard Crick
Sir, Mr Julian Amery, MP, argues against the proposed Assembly for Ulster (March 24) on the grounds that most political leaders in Ulster do not want it and that full integration would "cement the unity of the Kingdom". But historically Northern Ireland has never been a normal part of the United Kingdom, nor a normal part of Ireland.
I suggest that the unity of the United Kingdom (Mr Amery left out a word) has always depended on sensitivity to what Mr Amery oddly calls, in relation to Scotland and Wales, "local loyalties and prejudices" — a sadly English way of referring to two centuries of bitter hatred within the Union. I put the contrary case that devolution alone can preserve the Union. The "unity of the Kingdom" lies in seeing it as a union not as a sovereign, centralized state.

The opinion polls in Northern Ireland consistently show that the majority of the people are willing to accept both devolution and, indeed, actual power-sharing. "Solutions" of any kind

cannot be imposed, but the Government is surely right to give a lead to try to discover what may be acceptable that is not agreeable. Politics in deeply divided communities must be of that kind.

There is a more profound point. Surely it is obvious by now that Northern Ireland neither has been nor can be a normal part of the United Kingdom, but equally not of a united Ireland. Ulster inherently faces two ways. If that were grasped and we could discard the straitjacket of sovereignty thinking, then we could begin to imagine a future in which the people of Northern Ireland would work out for themselves the best way to institutionalize their existing British-Irish duality.

This is certainly not the intention of the Government, but at least it creates a framework for the future development in which the next decade of Northern Irish politicians could work together. The clock cannot be set back as Mr Amery wishes.
Yours faithfully,
BERNARD CRICK,
Birbeck College,
Malet Street, WC1.

Film cassette piracy

From Mr C. R. Hixon
Sir, I read Mr Michael Winner's letter (March 18) with great interest. Mr Winner has a very legitimate complaint but the suggested solution is entirely without merit. To enforce such a law would be virtually impossible and would place an unfair burden on the overworked law enforcement agencies of this country.
The film makers and distributors must realise that the Video age has dramatically changed all of the old marketing concepts that were originally instrumented in the 1930s. The solution is to release film cassettes at a reasonable price and/or charge for public viewing. This would take the profit out of piracy, which I agree is totally unacceptable and should be stopped.
It is obvious that the day of the cinema, as we have known it, is

over, so why not take advantage of the huge home, club and pub market that exists today? Every one would benefit, the film makers, the Inland Revenue and the public at large.

Our company has supplied over 2,000 video projection systems to sporting clubs, working men's clubs, British Legion clubs and the like, and people who view our equipment at any one weekend would amount to over 750,000. We are perpetually bombarded with requests from club secretaries for legitimate films to show their members, the cost of which is a secondary consideration.
Yours faithfully,
C. R. HIXON,
Managing Director,
Tele-Factor Limited,
Gable House, 4th Floor,
18/22 Turnham Green Terrace, W4,
March 18.

Lack of harmony

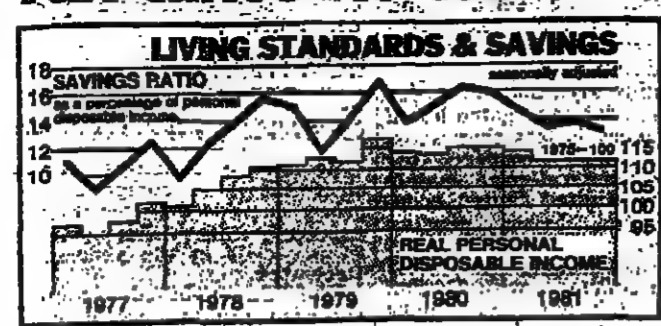
From Mr Peter Heyworth
Sir, Just over 21 years ago Klepper took the Philharmonia to Vienna, where they gave a Beethoven cycle (nine symphonies) that was rightly regarded as an unprecedented triumph for British orchestral playing.
Now the managing director of the Philharmonia, among others, invokes "rules" (whose, incidentally?) to prevent a Brahms cycle (four symphonies) at the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra hopes to give in London under its musical director, Carlo Maria Giulini.
What a sad coming of age!
Yours truly,
PETER HEYWORTH,
32 Ryngton Square, W1,
March 28.

Trade restrictions

From Mr A. M. Gregg
Sir, While sharing Sir Hugh Casson's opinion (March 29) on the aesthetics of the "hideous advertisements" on London taxis, I do not believe that an L40 quarter mark cab owners "rapacious".
If Sir Hugh had researched further he would have discovered that to go through the royal parks bearing advertisements, the cab trade had to get permission from the Department of the Environment. As long as the advertising agencies offer such infinitesimal amounts there is little danger of the majority of cabs carrying advertisements.
Yours faithfully,
A.M. GREGG,
(London taxi owner/driver)
6 The Avenue,
off St Stephens Road,
Hounslow,
Middlesex.

BUSINESS NEWS

Tax takes its toll



Living standards in Britain fell by 2 per cent in 1981, the first year-on-year fall since 1977, as unemployment rose and higher taxes and taxes hit deeply into lower pay increases. The fall was concentrated in the second quarter of 1981 following the Chancellor's tough tax-raising Budget. Living standards — measured by after-tax incomes adjusted for inflation — peaked in the fourth quarter of 1979. So did the savings ratio — the proportion of income saved — at 16.7 per cent. At the end of 1981 it was down to 13.1 per cent.

Strong demand for dollar

There was a flurry of activity in the foreign exchange markets yesterday after the dollar had gained strongly on the Japanese yen in Far East trading overnight. This reflected demand for the dollar coupled with lack of confidence in Japan's determination to defend its currency. Substantial intervention by the West German and Swiss central banks brought the dollar back down, after it had risen to DM2.42 at one stage. Elsewhere, the Bank of France lowered short-term money rates as the franc traded well above its floor within the European Monetary System.

US store bid accepted

BATUS, the American arm of tobacco group BAT Industries, seems to have succeeded with its tender for the Chicago-based stores group Marshall Field. Its offer of \$30 a share for 65 per cent of Field's 12.4 million shares has been oversubscribed, with holders of 92 per cent accepting. BATUS will increase its \$25.50 offer for the remaining shares to \$30. The Field Group, with a 31 per cent holding, has agreed not to frustrate the bid.

Cavendish Life chief resigns

Patrick de Carlo, flamboyant banker and financier, has resigned as chairman of Cavendish Life Assurance and his interests in the company are in the process of being bought out by a corporate investor. His resignation follows allegations made by *The Observer* at the weekend which are stated by him to be "manifestly untrue and which are the subject of proceedings for defamation," a press statement said yesterday.

MARKET SUMMARY

Celebration for Ladbroke

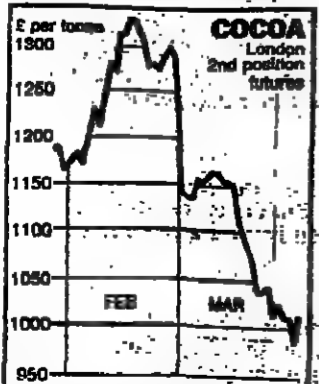
LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 568.5 up 6.2
FT 100 68.93 up 0.59
FT All Share 326.59 up 3.28
Bargains 24,597

Cement shares were a difficult market yesterday with the prospect of cheap imports from Germany and less than half the British price, pushing Blue Circle down 14p to 450p and Rugby 54p to 854p. Elsewhere in equities the gains continued, fuelled by a further round of encouraging statements and exaggerated by stock shorting, with the FT Index closing slightly off its best up 6.2 at 568.5. Ladbroke Group put on 8p to 160p as the market awaited good news from figures today, expected to show taxable profits up from £32.6m to at least £35m. Mr Cyril Stein, chairman, has been paying a few calls in the City and takeover rumours were not being entirely discounted. There should also be good news from Glaxo, up 10p to 520p ahead of interim next week. Among other leaders, Hawker Siddeley was 5p better at 300p reflecting healthy trading news the previous day from British Aerospace, 3p firmer at 194p. Trade in the gilt market remained thin, with slightly more enthusiasm than in the last few days, despite sterling's weaker opening, and there were gains of 2 1/2 to 3p in long dates with shorts up to 6 1/2 better. Donor-Holdings became the third car distributor in as many days to report gloomy trading news, plunging from profits of £287,000 to a pre-tax loss of £495,000 on sales down from £69.9m to £52.6m. But Mr Tom Kenny, chairman, says that if share prices are included there was an improvement of more than £1m and adds that a return to profits was in sight in the present year. But the real interest is whether British Car Auctions will make a bid after increasing its stake recently. Mr David Wickens, chairman, said he was waiting for the figures but BCA was not buying in the market yesterday where Donor was unchanged at 360p. Groceries International hardened 1p to 81p as 1981 profits were in line with the group's forecast move "whisper" it was fighting Barnham Off's offer while healthy trading news gave a 10p boost to Southwicks at 230p. Electronic group A & Electronic Products provided the star item, among yesterday's results, up 30p to 140p on a healthy return to profitability. Besides a presence in the cable television market, the group says considerable progress has been made in electronic sub-systems. Equity turnover on March 30 was £136.06m (22,458 bargains). Gareth David

COMMODITIES

Helped by the new July contract and by the belief that Nigeria has not sold cocoa recovered yesterday, the July contract gained £28 over May to £1,014 a tonne but May fell by £3 to £983. There is a hope that Nigeria will keep cocoa back from the market and process it domestically. It was observed by reports that the International Tin Council has agreed to borrow commercially to finance buffer stocks rather than apply import controls to members.



Coffee also moved into a new contract, but prices fell. May was £1,200 a tonne, £17 down, and July was £257 less than the previous May contracts at £1,168 a tonne.

TODAY

Board meetings: Interim: Borden Products and London Weekend Television; Final: Borden, British Vending Industries, Carparts International, John F. H. Grattan, Jersey Electricity, Ladbroke, Markham Securities, Thurgate, and other securities.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones index 7,260.48 up 68.66
Hong Kong Hang Seng index 1,165.98 down 1.20

CURRENCIES

Early dollar strength prompted intervention from the German and Swiss central banks. The dollar later eased, and ended trading to finish below its best levels. The pound recovered from a 6-month low of \$1.7760. LONDON CLOSE: STERLING \$1.7820 down 5 points index 91.0 up 0.2 DM 4.3050 up 0.0250 Yen 440.50 DOLLAR index 118.1 up 0.2 DM 2.4110 down 5 pts 60.13 \$320.00 down \$5.75

MONEY MARKETS

The Bank of England bought £411m of bills on a final forecast of a shortage of £300m. The Finance House Base Rate is cut from 15 1/2 to 14 1/2 per cent today. Domestic rates: Base rate 13 1/2 3-month interbank 13 1/2 12-month 13 1/2 Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 15 1/2 12-month 15 1/2 3 month DM 9 1/4 12-month 9 1/4 3 month FR 27-28

Crown Agents to sell up in Australia

The Crown Agents' Australian property portfolio will probably be sold within the next month. Talks with a possible buyer the Australian Mutual Provident, an insurance group, have been progressing for some weeks, and the sale is expected to raise between £530m and £530m (£183 - £185m) which is considerably lower than previous estimates. But very little if any of the proceeds are likely to find their way back to the United Kingdom because in Australia the agents have liabilities estimated to be as high as £185m. A high quality portfolio containing shops, offices and an hotel complex, the properties are owned through the Crown Agents' Australian subsidiary Abbey Capital Holdings. It is almost fully let and produces an income of about £18m a year. Jones Lang Wootton, the property has been on the market since last November although it is believed the Mutual Provident is the first group to show an interest in buying the entire portfolio. Offers have been made over the past five months for individual properties but the Crown Agents has been keen to dispose of its holdings in one package. The portfolio consists of almost one million sq ft of offices and about 650,000 sq ft of retail space, including the Milton Hotel Complex in Sydney, the Wollongong shopping centre and the 300,000 sq ft Bond Junction complex. Although the Crown Agents' activities in Australia looked like folly at the height of the property market collapse, recently there has been a shortage of office space in the country's main business centres and rents have risen strongly. A spokesman for Jones Lang, the agents handling the sale, said that the portfolio had been recently valued at more than £530m. The Capital Centre, containing the Hilton Hotel, 50,000 sq ft of shopping and 150,000 sq ft of offices, is alone estimated to be worth £100m. Meanwhile the Home Office is expecting a 1,000 page tribunal of inquiry report into the Crown Agents' overall activities from 1968-74. The tribunal was set up in 1974. It is believed the report will be finished and will be with ministers within the next week or so. Publication is expected this month.

Yamani attacks oil companies' pricing

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent
Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabia's oil minister, yesterday launched a strong defence of Opec's refusal to cut its oil prices and blamed the big oil companies for undermining the world oil price structure for short-term tax advantages. Speaking in London, he made it clear that much of his attack was directed at companies operating in the North Sea. Reliable oil sources in London say, however, that some of the companies have cut back sharply on their oil output. Gulf for example is believed to have been taking less than 100,000 barrels a day for most of last month, compared with its earlier peak liftings of about 350,000 barrels a day. It would be surprising if the companies, which have told Nigeria that its oil is \$4 to \$5 a barrel too expensive, would be willing to go on taking as much oil as it is in the second quarter if the price remains unchanged. Shell, whose joint venture with the Nigerian state oil company is thought to account for up to half Nigeria's total oil production, has conceded that it is in discussions about a renegotiation of its separate oil purchasing agreement. But it says that this has been going on for some time. The threatened sanctions by Saudi Arabia against companies that have been pressing Nigeria to lower its prices have so far failed to materialize, and many observers believe that the threat was deliberately leaked to strengthen the Nigerians' hands in the negotiations.

More confusion over Nigerian cutbacks

Leading oil companies operating in Nigeria refused to be drawn yesterday on claims that they have been seeking to cut back on their contracts with the financially troubled African oil producer. The report which emanated from the official Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries news agency in Vienna, adds a new element of confusion to the deadlocked talks in Lagos between the main operators and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. Nigeria's oil sales have slumped from 1.2m barrels a day towards 650,000 barrels a day in the last 10 days in the wake of Opec's attempts to hold oil prices in defiance of the world oil glut. But operating companies such as Shell, Mobil and Gulf have insisted that they are continuing to lift their share of oil as normal, and have

Treasury critics rebuffed

By David Blake, Economics Editor
The Treasury has rejected criticisms of the Government's spending plans by advisers to the Commons Treasury Select Committee. In an unusually abrupt reply to the committee, the committee's adviser Dr Terry Ward, of not understanding the significance of the changes in the way public spending is now controlled. "It claims the committee asks to come up with details of spending plans 'for the major programme decisions which are the subject of the White Paper'. The draft of the committee's report on this year's Budget and public spending decisions is sharply critical of the White Paper. It draws attention to the fact that figures in the public spending paper were out of date by the time it was published and is sceptical about Government hopes of holding down the amount of cash it spends as much as it would hope. Sir Anthony Rawlinson, secretary to the committee, admitted yesterday that the Government ought to make greater efforts to measure how well its spending programmes are delivering services. But he stressed there could be no move back to the old system of trying to measure public spending in 'volume' terms. He defended the realism of existing Government spending plans. The Treasury paper rejects the committee's inquiries about the volume of public spending. It says figures for this are no longer collected together and the new system of planning ahead in cash is superior in many ways. It says that 'nostalgia for the old 'volume' figures may arise from a misunderstanding of what those figures purported to picture. The new system gives a reliable indication of how changes in costs changed spending.

Electronics industry jobs boom on the way

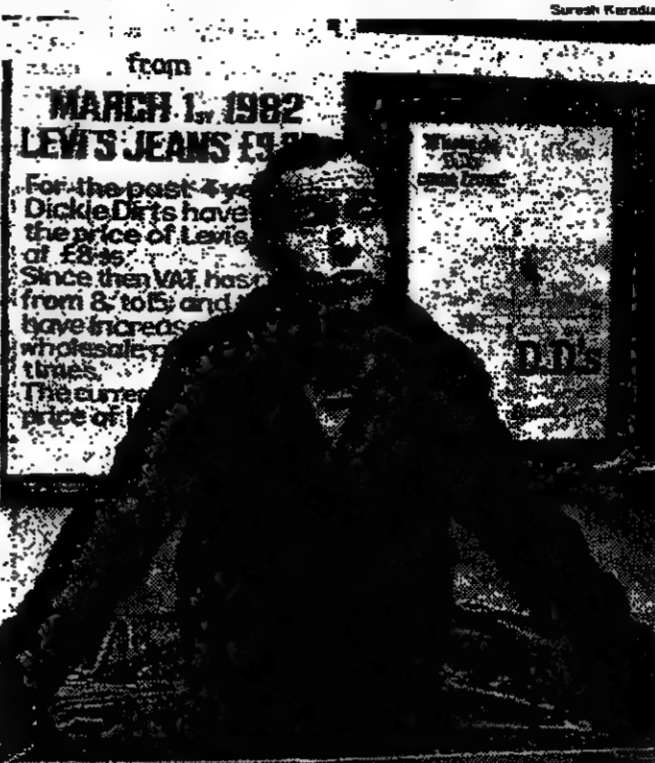
Scotland to make Nippon chips

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent
The Japanese electronics company Nippon Electric Corporation (NEC) is to make a new type of advanced memory micro-chip at a new £40m factory at Livingston, Scotland. The announcement has given a further boost to the thriving Scottish semiconductor industry. The 64K RAMS chips each of which is capable of storing 64,000 units of information go into production within 20 months. The plant is scheduled to be in full production by 1985 thereby creating 800 jobs. Although the semiconductor manufacturing industry has been hit by the recession the five Scottish-based manufacturers have announced over the last two years expansion programmes representing a total investment of £153.5m. Hughes, General Instruments, Motorola, Nippon Semiconductor and Nippon Electric Corporation form the backbone of that investment which will increase the job opportunities to about 6,000. The semiconductor industry is highly competitive with the top manufacturers competing for the lucrative markets of the United States, Europe and Japan. A recent report from Macintosh Publications, of Luton, reveals how competitive the industry has become. The report concludes that the top 20 semiconductor manufacturers invested \$1,000m (£562m) last year on plant and equipment. The market leader NEC is steadily increasing its investment in production capacity. That investment accounted for 24 per cent of semi-conductor sales last year, compared with 22 per cent in 1980 and 19 per cent in 1979. The leaders in the market are the United States and Japan. Four out of the five

Thousands of jobs secured by Indian contracts Britain wins £600m power exports

By Peter Hill and Edward Townsend
British engineering companies have received a boost which will secure thousands of jobs and generate export business of more than £600m. They will supply equipment and expertise to build large power stations in India and Taiwan. The Indian Government formally announced yesterday that it would enter serious negotiations with British companies for the supply of a 1,000 megawatt station and development of an associated coal mine. Northern Engineering Industries (NEI) is the lead contractor on the Indian project and will be responsible for the construction and supply of switchgear, transformers and other plant. GEC will provide the two 500 megawatt turbines and Babcock and Wilcox will, assuming agreement is reached, provide boiler and coal handling equipment. NEI is also likely to play an important part in building a fourth nuclear power station in Taiwan. The 1,950 megawatt pressurised water reactor station will cost about \$5,000m and NEI's share of the business is expected to be worth up to £90m. Taipower of Taiwan said yesterday that it would continue negotiations over the next few weeks before making a formal announcement. The lead role in the project will be taken by Combustion Engineering of the United States. Discussions on the Indian

Government departments. To finance the project, the British Government will provide India with an additional £65m in aid. This will be supplemented by £75m from a repayment India is due to make for previous loans and which the Government has agreed should be used locally. The Government will also help India by lifting the limit on its contribution to the International Development Association (IDA), the arm of the World Bank which makes loans on easy terms. The IDA will now be able to commit up to £370m of Britain's £555m contribution. Britain's decision to waive its limit helped to win the power station order.



Nigel Wright: "This is not the end"

Dickie Dirts shuts three shops in fight to survive

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor
Dickie Dirts, the troubled cut-price jeans shops chain, is shutting three of its five shops this week-end in an attempt to keep on trading until a creditors' meeting the first week in May. There has already been a cutback of 20 jobs out of a staff of 110, more could be at risk. "We have a serious problem because, at the moment, we are not in a position to meet all creditors' demands," said Mr Nigel Wright, 43, the one-time Portobello Road market trader who built up the chain to a £7m annual turnover in five years. He added: "This is not the end of Dickie Dirts. I hope we can find a way to keep going. Several suppliers are still willing to give us some supplies." But, at Notting Hill Gate yesterday the branch being kept open together with one at Victoria stock was much thinner than normal. There is some question as to whether Mr Wright will be able to get agreement on renewal of supply from the maker of Dickie Dirts own label jeans. Some 10,000 pairs a week had been delivered. The supplier, Renfrewshire was formed after a closure by Lee Jeans in 1980 on promises from Mr Wright that his chain would take the total production of the factory. Inverwear has reclaimed some jeans stock from Dickie Dirts because of money owed. Mr Wright yesterday blamed the rate of growth of the business as one reason for his cash flow problems. Decline in demand was only a contributory factor, he said. Some manufacturers of well-known branded jeans had also made it difficult for him to secure alternative supplies, Mr Wright added. He said that although Dickie Dirts was a limited company, he had a number of personal commitments. "I could lose everything personally," he went on.

Boardroom changes at Duffus ICI chief forecasts job losses

By Ronald Pullen
Gill & Duffus, the troubled commodity broking group, is strengthening its board after recent speculation that commodity losses will depress profits. The company is also rationalizing its head office staff which has so far led to about a dozen redundancies, mainly among administrative personnel. Most important is the appointment of Mr Nicholas Cosh as the new finance director. Mr Cosh made his mark at merchant bankers Charterhouse Japhet and has been associated with Charles Fothergill, the partly owned money broking subsidiary sold last week to Mercantile House. Also stepping up to the board is Mr C. Stapleton, who is the company's expert on coffee trading and is at present managing director of Pacol, one of the top commodity trading subsidiaries of the company. Two directors are also leaving the board. One is Mr R. Thorne, who at 57 is retiring early from the chairmanship of the other main trading subsidiary Gill & Duffus Ltd, and the second is Mr R. McFall, who is stepping down as a non-executive director having effectively retired last December. These moves follow the resignation of Mr Pat Aitken as chairman in February. He was replaced by Mr David Pearson with Mr Ronald Blackman taking up the reins as chief executive as well as remaining deputy chairman. The boardroom changes are intended to reassure the City that the group is taking firm action to improve its management structure. Gill & Duffus is due to announce its 1981 results next Wednesday and has already warned shareholders that unauthorized commodity trading in Hongkong, losses in the United States money market and forays into the tin market will cut pre-tax profits from £23.1m to £12m-£13m. Only last October the firm was hoping to make £16m. Profile — Page 15

The best meetings take place

For over a decade, people with a sense of occasion have chosen to rendezvous at the Inn on the Park. Now, we're also glad to say, people with good business sense are choosing the Inn on the Park for meetings of another kind. Though for much the same reasons. First, and foremost, the Inn on the Park is a luxury hotel. But if you think this makes for an unbusinesslike venue, think again. Nowhere are there surroundings more likely to make a lasting impression on colleagues and clients. And nowhere is there an atmosphere more conducive to making business a pleasure. This is made possible by service so thorough, so efficient and so unobtrusive that it leaves the businessman totally free to deal with matters at hand. No matter how big the business, or how small the gathering. Then, there is the added incentive of not one but two world-class restaurants. The Four Seasons which boasts cuisine fit for the palates of the greatest captains of industry. And Lanes, where the whitest collars can loosen their ties...not to mention their belts. All this, plus two bars and a lounge where even the fastest-moving executives will want to slow down and relax, makes the Inn on the Park the perfect setting for business of any kind. If you would like to find out more about business meetings at the Inn on the Park, simply call our Banqueting Manager, Paride Alexander or Anthony Rivers on 01-499 0888.

where the best people meet.

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

Slimmed down and Weir back to profit

Tombs hopes to continue better days

Sir Francis Tombs has found more fat on Weir Group than expected (Sally White writes). As newly appointed chairman, he instituted a rigorous financial fitness campaign and as a result the Glasgow engineering group has started the market by announcing pretax profits of £8.3m against a loss of about the same last year. Market forecasts were for £7m at best, and the share price failed to respond to the good news because analysts were queuing to find out if that performance was sustainable.

Sir Francis said: "We hope to do as well this year as we did last. The improvement was almost all internally generated."

Sales were down, from £165m to £152m. Redundancy costs were also down, at £1.3m against £3m. Earnings per share are 15.9p against a loss of 40.7p. The final dividend was 1.75p, making 1.85p.

Sir Francis said that, after the measures of the last two years and the capital reconstruction of last April, Weir still a major force in the foundry industry is now well placed to take advantage of any improvement in trade.

A major area of profits in the past was desalination plant, but the important Middle East market has contracted severely.

Foundries did slightly better in Britain, and exports improved. The company has been looking for new markets for its engineering side and has made headway in supplying oil industry equipment. Leas Weir, the French associate, has done well with its contracts for heat-exchangers for the nuclear power industry there.

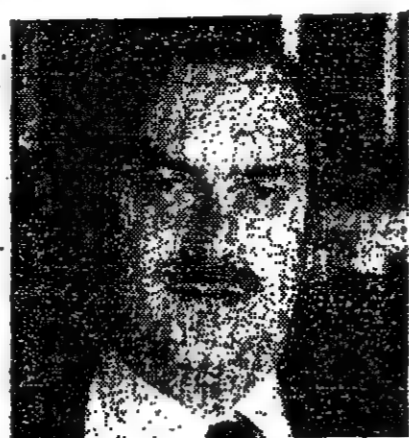
Gearing is now around 48 per cent of shareholder's funds. Weir says the system of cash control introduced throughout the group, with targets for each operating unit, will ensure that the healthier cash flow is maintained.

Even if the world and British economies stay flat, Weir thinks its improvement is sustainable. Weir has moved out of the League of troubled companies with a vengeance.

GRE looks to America

Soaring underwriting losses have left Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance showing only a £2m profit rise to £89m pre tax in 1981 (Peter Wilson-Smith writes). But for last May's £76m rights issue, which yielded about £6m extra investment income, and a number of other once-off items, profits would have been several million lower — and worse still at the attributable level, because a £6m fall in the tax charge largely reflects a non-recurring deferred tax release.

Earnings per share have shown a small rise and the dividend has been



Prof Robert Ball, chief of Legal & General, which has done better than hoped

raised by nearly 13 per cent to 25p gross on the enlarged capital, which should help to modify shareholders' wondering what GRE is doing with the proceeds of last year's cash call.

Finding the right acquisition in the United States has proved more difficult than GRE expected a year ago, and it appears that advanced talks with one American company were called off at a late stage. Given the appalling underwriting conditions worldwide and continuing deterioration in the United States, GRE seems to be casting its net wider.

Investment income last year rose from £99m to £136m, but underwriting losses more than offset this gain, jumping from £10.6m to £48.7m.

Australia and Canada produced the worst horror stories especially after taking account of internal reinsurance, but underwriting results could improve in both areas in 1982. But the United Kingdom, still showing an underwriting profit in 1981, will be much more cost about bad weather and there is little sign of sanity returning to a fiercely competitive market where rate-cutting still abounds.

Whether GRE can really improve the overall underwriting result in 1982 remains to be seen. Meanwhile, a solvency margin of nearly 65 per cent leaves scope for the long-awaited acquisition and at 304p the yield is 8.2 per cent.

While GRE's figures were mildly disappointing, Legal & General — second biggest of the life companies — has done better than hoped. After tax and minorities profits were up by £8m to £29.4m and the dividend has been raised by 44 per cent to 18.6p gross, leaving the shares 17p higher at 250p.

The life side has come through strongly with a two-fifths rise to £19.7m, and a £1.5m inclusion of New York-based Government Employees Life Insurance in 1982 should leave further room for increasing the dividend.

Underwriting losses were nearly a quarter up at £18.9m, with reinsurance largely to blame and Australia — where L&G is no longer writing business — also worse. Investment income rose from £27m to £34m.

CRODA

£1/2m cost of defending Burmah bid

Croda announced pretax profits for last year up from £7.43m to £10.12m. After its successful battle to fight off Burmah Oil's takeover bid, it has already forecast another big jump in profits this year to £16m and indicated that, under good trading conditions, it could produce £30m.

The figures reveal the cost of the defence against Burmah — £550,000.

Croda's share price barely changed, given the group's forecasts. At 82p the yield is 6.6 per cent. The final dividend is 2.25p, making 3.75p against 3.1p. Sales are up at £277.7m against £275.8m. Earnings per share are 5.94p against 6.74p.

Profit of Croda Chemicals International were up from £3.1m to £5.4m; on Croda World Traders they rose from £1.2m to £3m. Croda Organic Chemicals profits fell from £2.9m to £583,000, and Croda Polymers International saw profits drop from £4.9m to £4.2m. Interest payments were down from £5.7m to £3.9m.

The Burmah offer for Croda lapsed at the beginning of last month. The dividend forecast was held to be a substantial reason for Sir Freddie Wood's success in keeping his company independent. The market may now be cautious while it waits to see how trading is doing at the interim stage.

BUNZL

Dividend raised

Bunzl, the paper, packaging and cigarette filters group, has increased pretax profits only marginally from £11.4m to £11.5m for the year to December 1981. Sales rose substantially to £245.65m from £169.52m last time, largely as a result of the sales contribution from Intercontinental Cellulose Sales which became a Bunzl subsidiary, after being an associate, during the year.

Jersey Paper, which was bought at the end of April 1981 for £3.5m, also contributed its share to the increased turnover. Dividends have been increased from 4.31p gross to 5p gross, giving an increased total payout for the year of 11.42p gross, against 10.32p last time.

The company said yesterday that though the final dividend has been raised on the 1980 pay-out, part of the increase is a step towards correcting the wide disparity between interim and final dividends.

For the same reason, it does not expect to raise the half-year dividend for 1982 over the 6.42p gross paid last year.

On trading profit, which fell from £8.4m to £8.1m, the company said only 42 per cent of the total came from cigarette filter operations against 71 per cent in 1980. Profit from merchandising operations rose to 33 per cent from 15 per cent last time.

Net cash balances rose during the year from £5m to £6.6m, in spite of the 1981 acquisitions, the company says. There is access to adequate outside and internally generated funds to carry on the planned development programme, it says.

MOLINS

Profit hopes

Action by Molins to restructure its tobacco machinery and packaging businesses should see the group return closer to former earnings levels this year.

But pretax profits slumped by £1m to £7.9m in the year to December, the third year in which profits have fallen but in line with group forecasts. However the shares responded with a 7p rise to 170p. The final dividend has been marginally

lifted to 8.14p gross, against 8p, making a total for the year of 11.27p gross.

The packaging machinery division trimmed losses to £900,000 against £1.3m last time. Losses are again attributable to Masson Scott Thrissell Engineering and were taken before restructuring costs, including a number of redundancies.

Molins says that the order position for corrugated board machinery is less than satisfactory and prospects for improvement depend mainly on the United States economy and better product ranges.

Group trading profit of £8.7m compares with £10.8m, with tobacco machinery showing a real downturn to £9.6m from £12.1m. Much of the decline was in the Saunderton division, where profits were depressed because of new products and severe competition.

Extraordinary items cost £1.4m, which leaves attributable profits at £2.9m against £1.1m and earnings per share down at 14.6p against 22.5p. Group sales rose 8m to £132.5m.

Sir Harry Moore, chairman, says the tobacco machinery business has a full order book and actions taken last year will improve performance at the Bristol and Deptford operations.

Unless there is any further depression in the United States corrugated board market, the group expects higher profits this year.

SILKOLINE

More stability

Increased stability in the specialized sector of the oil industry during the second half of the year helped Silkolene Lubricants raise taxable profits to £945,000 against £868,000 in the year to December.

The second half year profits of £311,000 against £647,000 in the face of strong competition in the market place. Sales for the full year fell from £14.04m to £14.0m.

The group is raising dividends for the year from 7.14p gross to 8.52p per share with a 7.03p final distribution.

Activity in the current year has been maintained at the level of the latter part of 1981. The group says that barring the unforeseen it expects a better performance than last year. As planned, the group is uprating the operation of its used oil refining process which is expected to have a significant impact on profits in the second half of this year.

Silkolene shares rose 10p to 180p; where they yield 4.7 per cent on the increased dividend. Burnett & Hallamshire and Brown, Shipley both have a 10 per cent stake in the group following the sale by Croda International early last year of its 20 per cent holding.

BOWTHORPE

Sound growth

Bowthorpe Holdings, the electronic components group, has fared better than expected, with profits up by 25 per cent in the year to December.

The Sussex-based group recorded pre tax profits of £11.4m, against £9.05m on turnover which climbed by nearly £10m to £63.9m. With the news of a final dividend rise to 2.7p gross, making a total of 4.87p against 4.2p, the group's shares jumped 10p to 230p, the high for the year.

Bowthorpe says that all its business improved last year. In the United Kingdom Bowthorpe has grown its customers in telecommunications, aerospace and military industries, but there was flat demand for its products in the consumer durable and car industries. A recent deal with British Telecom for closure systems is valued at £1m.

Bowthorpe has more than half its business overseas, and its South African, United States and Japanese markets all saw improved trading.

Share of profits from associate companies rose by £500,000 to £1.79m and profits attributable are £1m higher at £5.6m. Earnings per share are up to 14.1p compared with 11.5p.

● Dorada Holdings. The motor vehicle distribution, engineering and merchandising group has announced a pretax loss of £1.56m for the year to end-December 1981 (£1.352m loss), on turnover of £52.789m (£67.954m).

The loss after extraordinary costs relating to closures reorganization was £2.310m. Interest charges were down from £1.423m to £999,809.

● Finance house base rate will be 14 1/2 per cent from today, a drop of half a point on the previous level. The Finance Houses Association said. The rate is calculated at the end of each month by averaging the cost of three month money in the inter-bank market over the previous eight weeks, and rounding up to the next half point.



Results for 1981

Subject to audit the results of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance plc for the year ended 31st December, 1981 are as follows:

	1981 £m	1980 £m
Investment Income	135.5	99.0
Less Interest Payable	9.8	9.6
	125.7	89.4
Underwriting Results		
Short-term (Fire, Accident and Marine)	(48.7)	(10.6)
Long-term	12.1	8.3
	(36.6)	(2.3)
Profit before taxation	89.1	87.1
Less taxation	28.8	34.9
Profit after taxation	60.3	52.2
Less Preference dividend and Minority Interests	3.1	1.7
Profit after taxation available to Ordinary shareholders	57.2	50.5
Ordinary Dividends		
Interim 6.75p per share	10.8	7.5
Proposed Final 10.75p per share	16.9	12.0
Total	27.5	19.5
Profit transferred to Retained Profits	£29.7m	£31.0m
Earnings per Ordinary share (after taxation)	39.5p	38.8p

The earnings per Ordinary share for 1980 have been adjusted to take account of the bonus element in the rights issue in June 1981. The 1981 dividends are payable on the increased share capital.

Results by Territories (before taxation)

	1981			1980		
	Net Premiums	Underwriting Result	Investment Income	Net Premiums	Underwriting Result	Investment Income
Australia	£7.3	(£4.7)	5.3	29.5	(1.3)	4.9
Canada	67.5	(8.1)	8.7	49.0	(2.6)	5.0
France	14.6	(4.8)	2.6	11.8	(0.7)	1.9
Germany	133.4	(4.6)	15.0	113.5	(5.2)	12.6
South Africa	36.3	(2.3)	3.8	26.3	(0.7)	2.6
U.K.	358.8	0.5	58.4	324.4	7.0	41.0
U.S.A.	59.3	2.8	7.2	45.9	2.3	5.0
Miscellaneous	144.9	(27.5)	23.7	125.9	(8.9)	16.4
	862.1	(48.7)	125.7	726.3	(10.6)	89.4

The territorial results are stated after reinsurance protection from group companies including protection under the worldwide stop loss arrangements. The 'Miscellaneous' underwriting result includes this reinsurance in respect of the territories shown opposite:

	1981 £m	1980 £m
Australia	(6.6)	(2.2)
Canada	(5.2)	(2.9)
South Africa	(6.4)	0.3
Others	(0.8)	0.8
	(19.0)	(4.0)

Exchange Rates								
	1981	1980		1981	1980		1981	1980
Australia	1.69	2.03	France	10.88	10.84	South Africa	1.83	1.78
Canada	2.27	2.85	Germany	4.29	4.70	U.S.A.	1.91	2.39

The results reflect the extreme competition experienced by the insurance industry in most of the territories in which the Group operates. The short-term business in some territories has also been affected by exceptional circumstances which have contributed to the heavy underwriting losses being suffered beyond those anticipated.

There has been a satisfactory growth in investment income, which has also benefited from the investment of the proceeds of the rights issue made in June 1981, pending its deployment in our expansion programme. We have examined a number of potential acquisitions but to date have not found any which meet our requirements at prices we could justify. We continue to be active in this area.

The profits from our long-term business have also grown satisfactorily and have benefited this year from the declaration of a special bonus on certain policies issued by Guardian Assurance plc, whereby a part of the terminal bonus previously allowed was vested, the shareholders' proportion of which amounted to £2.5m.

During 1981 sterling has weakened against the currencies of most major territories and exchange rate movements have had the effect of increasing premium income by £59m, investment income by £7.8m, and the short-term business underwriting loss by £5.7m.

Dividend

The Directors recommend the payment of a final dividend which, with the interim payment made in January 1982, will constitute an increase of 12.9% compared with the dividend paid in respect of the year 1980.

If approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 26th May, 1982 a payment at the rate of 10.75p per share (gross equivalent 15.36p) in respect of the final dividend will be made on 2nd July, 1982 to holders of Ordinary shares whose names appear on the register at 3 p.m. on 28th May, 1982, making with the interim payment in January last, a total of 17.50p (1980: 15.5p) per share (gross equivalent 25.00p; 1980: 22.14p).

The Annual Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 29th April 1982. Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance plc. Royal Exchange London EC3V 3LS

Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance
An insurance service worldwide

BIDS AND DEALS

Dupont has acquired McDowell, Knaggs and Associates and MKA Personnel of Worcester. The MKA companies, whose combined asset value is approximately £30,000, provide a range of specialized computer services including sales of microcomputers and systems, software development and personnel recruitment and training. The activities are complementary to those of Dupont's Computer Services subsidiary.

Negotiations are taking place between Tiger Oats and National Milling, Barrow-in-Furness, C. G. Smith, the South African Mutual Assurance Society and Imperial Cold Storage, which could result in a merger between Tiger and the sugar interests of C. G. Smith in a new holding company. C. G. Smith will also acquire a substantial interest in ICS.

Simon Engineering and Hoechst, the German chemicals company, have formed a joint company to expand their mutual interests in the oil field service industry. Hoechst UK is buying 50 per cent of TR Oil Services, a Simon subsidiary which supplies specialist oilfield chemicals and related services to the North Sea and Middle East. Price for the deal was not disclosed. Mr Robert Fleming, managing director of TR, predicted the development of chemical techniques which would improve oilfield recovery rates from around 30 per cent to 40 per cent or 50 per cent.

Hoechst UK today disclosed its sales last year rose 13.5 per cent to £44.9m and profit after interest, tax, minorities and extraordinary items totalled £5.1m against a loss of £8.5m in 1980 when there had been an extraordinary charge of £8.8m including redundancies.

OVERSEAS COMPANIES

Cie Generale de Geophysique (CGG), a French geophysical prospecting company, reported a 131.6 per cent growth in income last year to £340.9m. It includes Fr33m capital gains from restructuring its United States activities.

Societe Generale de Belgique announced 1981 losses of Fr2,600, compared with profits of Fr923m the previous year and a cut-off of Fr35 in its dividend to Fr90. It blamed the poor performance on its merger with the Union Miniere mining and investment group, which had losses of Fr2,600m, and the difficulties of the engineering firm in Sybetta in Iraq. Sybetta is reported to have lost Fr4,700m in a contract to build a telephone plant and phosphate mine there.

Profit after tax and payment of interest and minority interests but before extraordinary payments, dropped 81 per cent in 1981 to £10.85m, the British Petroleum Co of Australia said. Group turnover rose 18 per cent to \$A2,106m. Kufim (Malaysia) said, its group profit after tax fell 33 per cent to \$5m in 1981. The decline was due to losses at an associated company's palm oil refinery and rubber processing and hotel companies.

Croda 1981 results

	1981 £000	1980 £000
Unaudited Sales	277,725	275,802
Profit		
Croda Chemicals International	5,384	3,166
Croda World Traders	3,013	1,229
Croda Organic Chemicals	583	2,961
Croda Polymers International	4,231	4,904
Surplus on disposal of investments and properties	823	939
Profit before interest	14,044	13,199
Interest	3,918	5,762
Profit before tax	10,126	7,437
Profit after tax	6,316	7,190
Extraordinary items	2,183	1,782
Net profit available to ordinary shareholders	4,081	5,366
Earnings per 10p share	5.94p	6.74p
Ordinary dividends per share		
Proposed final (payable 1 July 1982)	2.25p	1.6p
Making total for the year	3.75p	3.1p

Copies of Report and Accounts available on and after 1 May 1982 from the Secretary

Croda
Croda International Plc
Covick Hall, Smith Goots,
North Humberdale DN14 9AA

ARTHUR BELL
SCOTCH WHISKY DISTILLERS

INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENT (UNAUDITED)
FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER, 1981

	Half-year ended 31st December, 1981 £000's	Half-year ended 31st December, 1980 £000's
Group Turnover — excluding inter-company sales	146,574	137,518
Scotch Whisky Division	133,900	127,399
Glass Container Division	15,217	12,460
Transport Division	2,557	2,287
Less: Intra Group Trading	151,654	142,146
	5,000	4,626
	146,574	137,518
Group Trading Profit	17,741	13,688
Less: Depreciation — Note 1	1,317	1,198
Add: Investment Income	16,424	12,498
	5	5
Less: Interest on loans	16,429	13,495
	1,551	2,717
Group Profit before Taxation	14,878	9,278
Scotch Whisky Division	14,554	10,280
Glass Container Division	222	(560)
Transport Division	114	70
Less: Intra Group Trading	14,890	9,790
	12	978
	14,878	9,778
Taxation	5,950	2,450
Group Profit after Taxation	8,928	7,328
Basic earnings per Ordinary Share	12.80p	10.50p
Fully diluted earnings per Ordinary Share — Note 2	11.46p	

Dividends
The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend for the year to 30th June, 1982 on the Ordinary Share Capital of 1.7p per Ordinary Share (1980: 1.55p) absorbing £1,185,000 (£1,084,000). The Interim Dividend will be paid on 1st June, 1982 to Ordinary Shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 6th May, 1982. A Preference Dividend amounting to £7,700 (£7,700) was paid in the six months' period to 31st December, 1981.

Note 1
No depreciation has been provided on the part of Freehold Heritable Properties relative to Buildings as the Board considers that such Buildings currently have a value not less than that shown in the Accounts.

Note 2
The fully diluted earnings per Ordinary Share take account of the ultimate conversion terms of the 9% Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock issued in December, 1980.



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BUSINESS NEWS

INTERNATIONAL



UNITED STATES

Legislation introduced in the Senate will require a major percentage of the foreign cars sold in the United States to be built with American parts and labour. Under the legislation, any company that sells more than 100,000 vehicles in the United States will have to produce or buy domestic production worth 25 per cent of its automotive sales in America. A sliding scale will mandate 50 per cent for those with sales over 150,000; 75 per cent for those over 200,000 and 90 per cent over 500,000. The requirement would be phased in beginning with the 1983 model year.

BELGIUM

Workers at Sabena, Belgium's financially ailing airline, have accepted a series of austerity measures including wage cuts of up to 17 per cent. In a referendum, almost 68 per cent of the workforce voted in favour of the cuts, but flight staff have served a strike notice that expires on April 16 in protest at the measures.

February consumer prices in the European Community were up 0.6 per cent from January and 12 per cent from the same month last year. The EEC statistical agency reported inflation in the 10 EEC countries slowed down from the 1 per cent rise recorded in January and matched December's 16-month low. The highest February rate of inflation was recorded in Italy, where prices rose 1.3 per cent. Britain recorded no rise at all.

INDONESIA

Indonesia will have to import 600,000 tons of oil in the year beginning in April to make up for a shortfall in domestic production, government officials said.

CHINA

Thirty-five foreign oil companies will take part in the first stage of the bidding for China's offshore oil. Forty-one oil companies had been invited to bid in the first stage and 35 had submitted applications by March 30. The bidding area covers the South Yellow Sea and Pearl River mouth basin.

An enigma takes over at ICI

By Rupert Morris

John Harvey-Jones describes himself as "an oddball". With long, straggly hair and a mustache, loud tie and blazer, direct manner, he certainly does not conform to the conventional image of a top company chairman.

Nor would first impressions suggest a man who had spent nearly 20 years in the Royal Navy, at ease in peaked cap and uniform. Far easier to imagine him as a sailor, sailing his Red Ensign boat under the Jolly Roger.

A buccannery image is by no means inappropriate for the man who takes over today as chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, with a salary of £135,000 a year and a reputation as a fearless decision-maker which won him the job ahead of two more fancied candidates on the ICI main board.

His career in the Navy, in which he was sunk twice as a teenage midshipman in destroyers in the Mediterranean, and served in submarines all over the world before joining naval intelligence, provides a complicated character.

"Being sunk gave me a need to prove myself," he confesses, "and I have felt a necessity to continue proving myself."

He acquired an early interest in man management when taught as a cadet at Dartmouth Naval College by Professor Cecil Northcote Parkinson, the inventor of Parkinson's Law. Subsequent experience on submarines taught him to mix with all ranks, placing greater emphasis on basic human relationships than on protocol. Mr Harvey-Jones prefers to be called John, and still likes to mix with the ranks—eating and drinking in the canteen at ICI's Millbank headquarters. He retains many friends from the Navy, including his former ship's cook, who works downstairs in security.

After the war he learnt Russian at Cambridge—having already learnt German at Dartmouth—and was recruited into naval intelligence.

One of his first tasks was to arrange the packing up of the dockyard at Wilhelmshaven, in Northern Germany, for reassembly in Russia as part of the postwar reparations. Ironically, one of his

first tasks as ICI chairman will be to supervise the company's massive new investment at the same German port.

After marriage in 1948 and the birth of a daughter who contracted polio, Lt Commander Harvey-Jones was called to the Cabinet Office for a two-year stint.

His work during that time was top secret, and is the reason why today he does not publish his full address, preferring to describe himself as living on the Essex/Suffolk border. He was awarded the MBE for "services to intelligence."

His daughter's illness enabled him to leave the Navy on compassionate grounds in 1956.

The career of Mr Harvey-Jones, civilian, is perhaps more remarkable, starting as it did with a lowly job in

troubleshooting role, and marked him as one of the highest of the high fliers. The huge Wilton site, a sort of small industrial town with a chaotic management structure, was the main obstacle to ICI's attempt to bring all grades of hourly-paid workers under a new weekly-paid staff agreement for the whole company.

"It was a very formative job," says Mr Harvey-Jones. "I was given responsibility without power. I asked for power to hire and fire managers, but I wasn't given it."

"Instead I was given a new organization, the Wilton Coordinating Committee, of which I was chairman, with deputy chairmen from each of the divisions. It looked like a typical ICI compromise, but something to my surprise, it worked."

His achievement was recognized with his appointment in 1970 as chairman of Heavy Organic Chemicals, now renamed the Petrochemical Division. He was catapulted over several people he had worked under less than three years before.

His elevation to the ICI main board in 1973 completed a 16-year period in which he had risen from the bottom to the top.

"I'm ambitious to make things happen," he says, "but I'm not personally ambitious, not a climber. I've never worried much about promotion."

The remark is that of a man who appears to be a man who people think of him. He talks freely about his enthusiasms, however trivial they appear. He is an excellent cook, and that probably takes up more of his weekends than his other favourite country pursuits of walking and bird-watching.

There is something impetuous about a man who is such a stimulating company but who cannot hide his impatience to get on with the job.

So what kind of job is he planning to do at ICI? "The chemical industry in Europe is in a mess," he declares. "There's a period of readjustment, and ICI has substantial overhang of capacity. All of us failed to appreciate in time that growth in the industry was coming to an end."

"From 1974 we appreciated that growth was reducing,

but each time we took action, we found we were chasing low growth downwards, always a few per cent behind the true market."

"The European industry has not shaken out like the United States. Where perhaps five companies compete for a market over there, in Europe you would probably have 20."

"I believe if you want to be successful in the chemical industry, you've got to be ahead in the area you choose to be in. You've got to have an edge."

His philosophy does not necessarily mean chopping off unprofitable parts of the company's operations, although few doubt that he will be prepared to wield the axe.

In dyestuffs, for instance, which is presently a loss-making sector, he takes the view that ICI may have overspecialized, so that high fixed costs and a narrow range of selling outlets combined to squeeze potential profits.

"We need to broaden our range to sustain the world selling organization that is needed," he says.

On bulk plastics, however, where European overcapacity is chronic, Mr Harvey-Jones is less sanguine. "I can't see any alternative but a war of attrition," he says.

He admits that ICI's new massive plant at Wilhelmshaven should have been built years ago but says he



remained confident that the technology is sound.

He is less confident about the company's position in polyethylene production, where low-pressure techniques have enabled Dow Chemicals and Union Carbide to gain ground at the expense of ICI and others.

"I think we made a misjudgment by not exploring the technology," he confesses. "Now the field is going to be very crowded."

Overall, he says he can only see the company continuing to shed labour. In 18 months ICI has reduced its British workforce from 84,000 to less than 70,000. But Mr Harvey-Jones is not going to speculate on further cutbacks.

The future, of course, is far from bleak for ICI. Last year's pre-tax profits of £335m were a useful improvement on the previous year's £284m and with expansion areas like drugs, paint, and agrochemicals, the company is in a healthy state.

The chairman has plenty to think about, much of it highly encouraging. He could not disguise his high spirits in the wake of the Hillhead by-election.

"It's a bit difficult for me. I'm an SDP member, but as ICI chairman I should be non-political."

Such considerations, however, are unlikely to stop him speaking his mind.

Business Editor

Babcock rides the recession

Babcock International's pre-tax profits of £14.1m for 1981 on turnover of £956m may not be all that much to shout about, but the group has done considerably better than many in holding its head above water through the recession.

Indeed, with a tight squeeze on working capital and a favourable flow of contract payments, the net borrowing position actually improved last year as the group generated £28.9m in cash.

One point of agreement does emerge. The Treasury concedes that the inflation figures used converting last year's White Paper into cash are lower than the figures now being forecast for inflation for the whole economy.

But there the agreement pretty well ends. The Treasury denies that the fact that it is now making different inflation assumptions invalidates the cash plans. It says that those plans, not any notional "volume" ideas, are what the government is now pledged to.

Yet at the same time, the paper gives the game away by saying that the government will press for more efficiency if prices rise "in a way which seriously impairs the intended level of service." That is an admission that turning behind the cash figures there is a commitment to a level of service as well. If the search for efficiency fails, what will the government do then?

It is hard not to think that the Treasury, although sent to the MPs, is aimed at spending departments who do not take the future cash spending totals very seriously.

Given that the government has to announce spending plans for this year of £25,000m more than it intended to last April, this is not surprising. The Treasury paper is full of references to the role of ministers making explicit decisions over the carrying assumption that the cash figures will not be changed. Nothing in it dispels the belief that the amount of cash for public spending needed in 1983-84 will have to be considerably larger than currently allowed.

The full National Income figures for 1981 confirm the sharp recovery in company profits in the second half of last year—and that gains for profits outside the North Sea sector too. However, profits outside the North Sea sector were still down by a tenth (after stock appreciation) on their 1978 peak, and that was before charging interest payments. Allowing for these, profits were down by 30 per cent on the previous two years. The real issue this year is to what extent improved profitability can help to offset the pressures on company liquidity resulting from the end of destocking.

On a maintained, albeit uncovered, dividend of 7p a share, the yield is 9.4 per cent on shares up 10p to 106p last night.

Public spending A riposte

The Treasury has adopted a tough, some would say, somewhat, tone in rejecting criticisms made by advisers to the House of Commons Select Committee of government spending plans. It accuses the government's critics of not understanding what the new system of

1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge Divs. Yld Actual P/E Fully Paid

130 100 Acc Brit Ind CULS 130 +2 10.0 7.7 — —

75 32 Airsprung Group 75 — 4.7 6.4 11.6 18.0

51 33 Armagh & Rhodes 45 — 4.3 9.6 3.8 8.5

205 38 Barron Hill 201 — 8.4 9.8 11.9 —

107 100 CCL 11% Conv Pref 107 — 15.7 14.7 — —

104 62 Debenhams Stores 62 — 6.0 9.7 3.1 5.8

131 97 Frank Horsell 125 — 5.4 5.1 11.4 23.3

83 39 Frederick Parker 77 — 6.4 8.3 3.9 7.5

76 46 George Blair 54 +1 — — — —

102 93 Ind Prec Castings 96 +1 7.3 7.6 6.9 10.4

109 100 Isis Conv Pref 109 +1 15.7 14.4 — —

113 94 Jackson Group 97 — 7.0 7.2 3.1 6.9

130 108 James Burroughs 116 — 8.7 7.5 8.5 10.6

334 246 Robert Jenkins 246 — 31.3 12.7 3.4 8.7

84 51 Servotest "A" 64 — 5.3 8.3 3.8 9.1

222 159 Torday & Carlisle 159 — 10.7 6.7 5.1 9.5

15 10 Trivlock Ord 14 — — — — —

80 66 Twinkl 15% ULS 80 +0 15.0 18.8 — —

44 25 Unilock Holdings 25 — 3.0 12.0 4.5 7.6

103 73 Walter Alexander 80 +1 6.4 8.0 5.3 9.3

263 212 W. S. Yeates 222 +0 14.5 6.4 5.3 11.9

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price Ch'ge	Divs.	Yld	Actual	P/E	Fully Paid
130 100	Acc Brit Ind CULS	130	+2	10.0	7.7	—	—	—	—
75 32	Airsprung Group	75	—	4.7	6.4	11.6	18.0	—	—
51 33	Armagh & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	9.6	3.8	8.5	—	—
205 38	Barron Hill	201	—	8.4	9.8	11.9	—	—	—
107 100	CCL 11% Conv Pref	107	—	15.7	14.7	—	—	—	—
104 62	Debenhams Stores	62	—	6.0	9.7	3.1	5.8	—	—
131 97	Frank Horsell	125	—	5.4	5.1	11.4	23.3	—	—
83 39	Frederick Parker	77	—	6.4	8.3	3.9	7.5	—	—
76 46	George Blair	54	+1	—	—	—	—	—	—
102 93	Ind Prec Castings	96	+1	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4	—	—
109 100	Isis Conv Pref	109	+1	15.7	14.4	—	—	—	—
113 94	Jackson Group	97	—	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9	—	—
130 108	James Burroughs	116	—	8.7	7.5	8.5	10.6	—	—
334 246	Robert Jenkins	246	—	31.3	12.7	3.4	8.7	—	—
84 51	Servotest "A"	64	—	5.3	8.3	3.8	9.1	—	—
222 159	Torday & Carlisle	159	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5	—	—
15 10	Trivlock Ord	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
80 66	Twinkl 15% ULS	80	+0	15.0	18.8	—	—	—	—
44 25	Unilock Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6	—	—
103 73	Walter Alexander	80	+1	6.4	8.0	5.3	9.3	—	—
263 212	W. S. Yeates	222	+0	14.5	6.4	5.3	11.9	—	—

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 up to £50,000 11% £50,000 and over 11.4%

COMMODITIES

COPPER: Higher grade copper was up 10p to 235.50. Cash sales: 4,000 tonnes. Cash sales: 4,000 tonnes. Cash sales: 4,000 tonnes.

SILVER was steady but quiet. Bid: 235.50. Offer: 235.50. Bid: 235.50. Offer: 235.50.

WHEAT Standard was steady. Bid: 235.50. Offer: 235.50. Bid: 235.50. Offer: 235.50.

LEAD Standard was steady. Bid: 235.50. Offer: 235.50. Bid: 235.50. Offer: 235.50.

WALL STREET

New York, March 31. — Prices lower after a modest, but active trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by 0.65 to 323.83 shortly after the market opened.

Declines outnumbered advances by 332 to 312 among the 1,038 issues crossing the tape.

Early NYSE turnover reached about 2.36m shares. Prices were mixed in moderate trading of American Stock Exchange issues.

Analysts said that the market may continue Tuesday's aimless drifting as traders nervous about

Allied Chem	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2
Allied Chem	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2
Allied Chem	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2
Allied Chem	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2
Allied Chem	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2
Allied Chem	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2
Allied Chem	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2
Allied Chem	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2
Allied Chem	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2
Allied Chem	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2	29 1/2

LATEST RESULTS

Company in p. file	Share £	Profit £	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Ytd's total
A. B. Electronic (I)	11,820 (0.4)	0.30 (5.96)	5.31 (5.74)	0.50 (5)	—	(4.0)
Babcock (F)	95,873 (7)	14.11 (5.2)	3.60 (5)	3 (0.3)	1/6	7 (7)
Bowthorpe (F)	33,954 (9)	11.43 (0.4)	14.11 (1.5)	1.81 (5)	1/7	3,42.90
Bund (F)	24,632 (0.8)	11.51 (1.1)	23.42 (2.5)	3.53 (0.2)	1/7	87.23
R. Cartwright (F)	9,995 (72)	0.60 (0.1)	5.13 (4.51)	2.75 (2)	—	(14.0)
Candfield Rtr (I)	17,771 (0.2)	0.99 (0.34)	3.29 (1.1)	—	1/7	(4.0)
Coca (F)	27,027 (8)	10.17 (43)	2.39 (1.5)	2.51 (8)	1/7	3,753.11
Dickie Hunt (F)	1,571 (58)	0.05 (0.11)	0.71 (1.5)	0.20 (25)	—	0.45 (50)
Dorade (F)	52,709 (85)	1.54 (1.34)	15.48 (13.2)	—	—	—
G.R.E. (F)	—	88.1 (87.1)	39.5 (38.8)	10.75 (5)	2/7	17.51 (5.5)
Imperial Chemical (F)	6,586 (3)	0.81 (0.2)	12.70 (4.7)	3 (63)	—	4 (64)
Lagat & Gan (F)	—	36.32 (7.3)	19.81 (4.3)	9 (5)	—	130
Magnolia (F)	8,337 (80)	0.35 (0.75)	9.91 (13.2)	1.71 (5)	28/5	2,32.11
Milnes (F)	12,524 (24.8)	0.35 (0.75)	14.92 (2.5)	5.75 (8.9)	—	7,137.89
Paraflex (F)	2,942 (4)	0.44 (0.22)	4.25 (1)	1.71 (12)	—	(3.5)
Silhouette (F)	14,114 (0.6)	0.40 (0.80)	15.71 (4.1)	4.93 (9)	—	6 (63)
W. T. Jones, Sons (I)	2,282 (0.5)	0.85 (0.08)	2.85 (7)	0.5 (—)	—	(1.0)
Wade (F)	1,851 (8.9)	15.94 (0.4)	1.75 (—)	15 (24)	27/8	1,854
Wilkinson Warburton (F)	2,424 (3)	0.80 (7)	16.21 (19.53)	4 (8.4)	21/8	6,605.29

Equities advance

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

TREBLE

Six Goe
Chance
24 Pts
23 Pts
22½ Pts
21½ Pts
21 Pts

Trade Cl
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45 -
92

TREBLE

24 Pts.
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NO REES
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FOR CCL

TREBLE

24 PTS.....
23 PTS.....
22½ PTS.....
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21½ PTS.....
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Trade Chance

1-413*

Boys postpone return

Monte Carlo, March 31. — Bjorn Berg has postponed until Friday his return to Grand Prix tennis after a five months' rest. He should have taken part in a qualifying round tomorrow of the Monte Carlo tournament, but asked for his first match to be postponed to give him time to prepare for his next Games was an improvement on previous campaigns when a coach had only been appointed one year in advance.

The five-times Wimbledon winner is supposed to compete the qualifiers of the Grand Prix the following year, but he enters this year, because he refuses to enter the minimum ten required to earn him exemption.

A club president and member of the host club, he might have expected to receive a wild card to take him straight to the final. But he was obliged to agree to compete in the preliminaries. — *Agence France-Presse.*

Madrid, March 31. — The sudden resignation of Vujadislav Boskov of Yugoslavia as coach of Real Madrid has led to speculation over the future of the Spanish team.

It is believed that the manager of Argentina will take over.

The specialist newspaper *Don Balon* says here today that the choice of the new manager, a former league runner up last season — would depend on the elections for the shareholders to re-elect Luis de Carrion as will send for Menotti to

Damaged morals of Olympians

At the Royal Yachting Association Club yesterday at the Savoy Hotel, the council came under somewhat belated criticism for their boycott of the 1980 Olympic Games in Tallin. Mr. Dick Law, father of two of our

Chinese lesson

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

First division		Scottish second division	
Aston Villa (2) 2	West Ham (1) 2	Clyde (2) 3	Stirling (2) 2
Sheff	28,440	O'Neil (2), Delamy	Tamworth (2) 1
White			Alloa (2) 1
Wolves (1) 3	Birmingham (2) 4	Stenhousemuir (2) 0	High
Grass 2	19,301		
Wark	19,301		
Liverpool (2) 1	Birmingham (2) 1		
Rush 2	11,400		
Sheff Wed (2) 1	24,274		
Blackburn (2) 0	West Ham (1) 1		
20,272	Von der Elbe		
Second division		ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Barnum 2	
Cardiff (2) 2	Grimsby (1) 1	Tallouk O. Gump, semi final, second leg, Enfield 2	
Derham	8,324	Rancon (2) Enfield met on aggregate	
More (2) 1	Oxford (2) 0	SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Maidhead 2	
Luton (2) 1	0, 716	Bentley 3, Weymouth 1, Tynemouth 1	
Leam (2) 0	0, 716	Bentley 3, Weymouth 1, Bromsgrove 1, Gloucester 1	
Sheff Wed (2) 1	Leicester (2) 1	Albion Keynes 0, Nantwich 5, Reading 2	
Adm (2) 0	Leamster	Southend 0, Southport 1, Thurston 1	
8,340		Saltbury 1, Basingstoke 5, Hounslow 0	
Third division		Canterbury 1, Dover 2, Crawley 1, Uxbridge 1	
Derham		Durham 0, Enfield 0, Doncaster 1	
More (2) 1		Durham 0, Enfield 0, Doncaster 1	
Luton (2) 1		Woolston 2, Hastings 0, Grays 0, Halesworth 0	
Leam (2) 0		4, Folkestone 2	
Sheff Wed (2) 1		NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Goals	
Adm (2) 0		Barnsley 1, Macclesfield 1, Lancaster 4	
8,340		President C. Gump: semi-final, second leg, Barnsley 1, Macclesfield 1 (Barnsley won on aggregate)	
Fourth division		CENTRAL LEAGUE: Burnley 0, Aston 1	
Derham	4,208	Preston 0, Manchester City 0, Stoke 1	
More (2) 1		Manchester United 3	
Luton (2) 1		FA YOUTH CUP: semi-final last leg, Watford 2	
Leam (2) 0			

TODAY'S FIXTURES

[illegible]

RUSSIAN LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

1st round: 1. **FC Zenit** (St. Petersburg), 2. **FC Spartak** (Moscow), 3. **FC Lokomotiv** (Moscow), 4. **FC Dynamo** (Moscow), 5. **FC Torpedo** (Moscow), 6. **FC Nizhny Novgorod** (Nizhny Novgorod), 7. **FC Rubin** (Kazan), 8. **FC Rostov** (Rostov-on-Don), 9. **FC Khimki** (Moscow), 10. **FC Amur** (Khabarovsk), 11. **FC Burevisnik** (Khabarovsk), 12. **FC Vostok** (Khabarovsk), 13. **FC Zvezda** (Khabarovsk), 14. **FC Okean** (Khabarovsk), 15. **FC Vityaz** (Moscow), 16. **FC Dynamo** (Khabarovsk), 17. **FC Zenit** (Khabarovsk), 18. **FC Spartak** (Khabarovsk), 19. **FC Lokomotiv** (Khabarovsk), 20. **FC Dynamo** (Khabarovsk), 21. **FC Torpedo** (Khabarovsk), 22. **FC Nizhny Novgorod** (Khabarovsk), 23. **FC Rubin** (Khabarovsk), 24. **FC Rostov** (Khabarovsk), 25. **FC Khimki** (Khabarovsk), 26. **FC Amur** (Khabarovsk), 27. **FC Burevisnik** (Khabarovsk), 28. **FC Vostok** (Khabarovsk), 29. **FC Zvezda** (Khabarovsk), 30. **FC Okean** (Khabarovsk), 31. **FC Vityaz** 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ICE HOCKEY
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Boston Sabres 3, Quebec Nordiques 4; Montreal Canadiens 8, Hartford Whalers 4; Winnipeg Jets 3, Minnesota North Stars 5; Los Angeles Kings 2, Vancouver Canucks 3.
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Chicago White Sox 3, New York Yankees 2; California Angels 3, St. Louis Cardinals 2; Texas Rangers 3, Oakland Athletics 2; Seattle Mariners 2, Toronto Blue Jays 3.

SKIING CONDITIONS					
	Depth (m)	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	
Andermatt	180 380	Good	Good	now	
Gemassack top runs	175 500	Good	Good	Clear	
Plaine	175 500	Good	Good	Clear	
Superb powder skiing	150 185	Good	Good	C	
Isola 2000	40 200	—	—	—	
Excellent Piste skiing	—	—	—	—	
Niederan	—	—	—	—	
Connect sports	—	—	—	—	

Sauza v Oude 20 95 Fair Powder Poor **es**
 New snow on upper slopes
 Val d'Aure 210 270 Good Varied Goo.
 On and off plate conditions excellent Vertical
 Good Good Good Snow
 New snow on hard base
 Wengen 55 170 Good Powder Good

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the
 British, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. Th
 have been received from other sources.

Asusla	Dough (mm)	Plate (mm)	Weather °C	Lemons Lactic Meyrholm Meteordol	50 0 0 60	80 80 110 300
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Albeck	40	180	—	—	3	Berggr.	95	220
Armer-Edmund	0	146	—	—	-2	Obertauern	—	260
Dachstein	20	190	—	—	1	Scharns	20	260
Brand	20	200	—	—	5	Satt.	260	265
Hochalpen	25	180	—	—	-1	St.	30	140
Igis	10	95	—	—	-2	Wischhaus	—	200
Ischgl	110	250	—	—	0	Zürs	260	265

سكرا من الاصل

The reward for allegiance doubles

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Wimbledon's prize money has been increased from £227,795 to £227,820, a rise of £25,025 or 11.1 per cent. In addition, the prize money for the men's singles has been increased from £35,946 to £35,946, a rise of £3,946 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the women's singles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the men's doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the women's doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the men's mixed doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the women's mixed doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the men's singles has been increased from £35,946 to £35,946, a rise of £3,946 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the women's singles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the men's doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the women's doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the men's mixed doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the women's mixed doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent.

The decision to extend the prize money to the doubles was a surprise. The prize money for the men's doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the women's doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the men's mixed doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the women's mixed doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the men's singles has been increased from £35,946 to £35,946, a rise of £3,946 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the women's singles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the men's doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the women's doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the men's mixed doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent. The prize money for the women's mixed doubles has been increased from £13,440 to £13,440, a rise of £1,440 or 11.1 per cent.

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Burnett: 'increases have not kept up with inflation.'

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Hope springs eternal one Mo' time — and retires to the sea

By Selkirk Sen, Boxing Correspondent

The decision of Maurice Hope to retire after his defeat on Tuesday night at Wembley was a surprise. Hope, who had been a world champion, had been expected to continue his career. However, he decided to retire and return to the sea. Hope's career had been successful, but he felt it was time to move on. He had a family and wanted to spend more time with them. He also wanted to enjoy the sea, which was his passion. Hope's retirement was a sad day for his fans, but they respected his decision. He was a true champion, and his legacy will live on.



Cowell gives full value

Hope's retirement was a surprise. He had been a world champion, and his fans were disappointed to see him leave the sport. However, he had a good reason for retiring. He wanted to spend more time with his family and enjoy the sea. Hope's career had been successful, but he felt it was time to move on. He was a true champion, and his legacy will live on.

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Tug of war between his emotions and ambitions

The tug of war between his emotions and ambitions was a constant theme in the life of a young man. He was a talented athlete, but he was also a sensitive person. He wanted to succeed, but he also wanted to follow his heart. He was torn between the two, and it was a difficult decision to make. He eventually decided to follow his ambitions, but he never lost sight of his emotions.

The tug of war between his emotions and ambitions was a constant theme in the life of a young man. He was a talented athlete, but he was also a sensitive person. He wanted to succeed, but he also wanted to follow his heart. He was torn between the two, and it was a difficult decision to make. He eventually decided to follow his ambitions, but he never lost sight of his emotions.

Kelso's Border flowers

Kelso's Border flowers were a beautiful sight. They were a mix of colors, and they were in full bloom. The flowers were a symbol of hope and resilience. They had survived through the toughest of times, and they were still there, ready to bloom again.

Kelso's Border flowers were a beautiful sight. They were a mix of colors, and they were in full bloom. The flowers were a symbol of hope and resilience. They had survived through the toughest of times, and they were still there, ready to bloom again.

Where the amateur is well paid

The amateur athlete is well paid in many ways. They receive a lot of attention and support from their fans and sponsors. They are also able to travel the world and compete in some of the most prestigious events. The amateur athlete is a true hero, and they deserve the rewards that come with their success.

Howell rebukes the stars who shun home tracks

Howell rebuked the stars who shun home tracks. He said that they were not representing their country properly. He wanted them to come home and compete on their own soil. Howell was a true patriot, and he was proud of his country. He wanted the stars to be proud of their country as well.

Robbins likely to return

Robbins is likely to return to the sport. He has been away for a while, but he is now ready to come back. He has a lot of experience, and he is a true professional. He is sure to be a valuable asset to his team.

Leicester trio hope to be back

The Leicester trio hope to be back in the team. They have been away for a while, but they are now ready to return. They are a strong and experienced team, and they are sure to make a difference.

Grant aid for rugby stand

A grant has been awarded for a new rugby stand. The stand will be a great addition to the stadium, and it will provide a better viewing experience for the fans. The grant was a wonderful surprise, and it will help to improve the stadium.

Ladykillers in deadly form

The ladykillers were in deadly form. They were a group of women who were known for their beauty and their ability to seduce men. They were a real threat to the men around them.

When the one that got away landed in her pocket

When the one that got away landed in her pocket, she knew she had won. She had been chasing him for so long, and now he was finally hers. She was so happy, and she knew that this was the beginning of a new chapter in her life.

Recruitment Opportunities

There are many recruitment opportunities available. We are looking for people who are motivated and hardworking. If you are interested, please contact us for more information.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments

We have several secretarial and non-secretarial appointments available. The positions are in a variety of industries, and we are looking for people with a range of skills and experience.

PA SECRETARY RECEPTIONIST

We are looking for a PA and a secretary. The PA will be responsible for managing the schedule and handling correspondence. The secretary will be responsible for answering the phone and taking messages.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments

We have several secretarial and non-secretarial appointments available. The positions are in a variety of industries, and we are looking for people with a range of skills and experience.

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see pages 20 and 21

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Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Canberra, Australia

DIRECTOR \$A49,100 plus allowances

The Australian Government is expected to enact legislation in 1982 to establish the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) as a statutory authority and create the position of its Director. The Centre will be responsible for identifying priority agricultural and related research needs in developing country regions, developing proposals to meet those needs and mobilising and expanding Australian and developing country capacity to implement approved programmes for research. The Centre will not engage in research activities itself. It will be charged with contracting research work to existing Australian institutions in the field of agriculture and related disciplines.

The Centre will have a Policy Advisory Council representative of developed and developing country expertise and a Board of Management which will be responsible to the Minister for Foreign Affairs for the conduct of the affairs of the Centre.

The Director will, subject to the direction of the Board of Management, manage the affairs of the Centre, assisted by a secretariat of high professional quality.

Qualifications and Experience

The Director will have research experience of international standing in an appropriate field of agriculture or related disciplines. He will have superior management skills and substantial experience in policy formulation and development programme development and evaluation, and the conduct of research programmes. Sound knowledge of the Australian research system in agriculture and related disciplines and a working knowledge of agricultural research needs and systems in developing countries (including national, regional and international systems) are considered essential. Experience in the requirements and problems of conducting research programmes in developing countries would be an advantage.

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\$A49,100 plus allowances of \$A1,525 p.a. for expenses of office. Conditions of service include four weeks annual leave plus leave loading and membership of a superannuation fund. Removal and relocation expenses may be borne by the Centre. The successful applicant will be appointed for up to seven years.

Persons seeking further information are invited to contact Dr Gabrielle Perley in Canberra (062) 47 8644.

Applications with curriculum vitae and names and addresses of two referees should be forwarded to the Chairman, Interim Board of Management, ACIAR, PO Box 887, Canberra City, A.C.T. Australia 2601, no later than 23 April, 1982.



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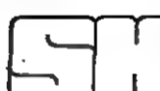
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